****

GOD’S LOVE > MY RELATIONAL TENSION

Matthew 18:21-35

Matthew 18:21, Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Matthew 18:22, Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

In Matthew 18:21-35 Jesus teaches us:

1. How to receive forgiveness. (Matthew 18:23-27)
2. How to forgive others well. (Matthew 18:28-33)
3. God’s blessing requires treating others right. (Matthew 18:34-35)

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1. We all owe people far more than we realize. (Matthew 18:23-27)

Matthew 18:23-27, 23 Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of goldwas brought to him. 25Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26At this the servant fell on his knees before him. “Be patient with me,” he begged, “and I will pay back everything.” 27The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

Matthew 18:24 (NASB), one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

1. We need to have mercy far more than we realize.

Matthew 18:28-33, But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. “Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. 29His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, “Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.” 30But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32Then the master called the servant in. “You wicked servant,” he said, “I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?”

100 silver coins = $8700

10,000 golden talents = $11.9 billion

1. God treats us as we treat others.

Matthew 18:34-35, In **anger** his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

What forgiveness is not:

1) Putting yourself or anyone else in a position to be hurt.

2) Not suppressing or distorting truth.

*"****God is more willing to pardon than to punish. Mercy does more multiply in Him than sin in us. Mercy is His nature.****"*  - Reverend Thomas Watson

*“[Don’t mistake] God’s patience with sinners for the idea that God is tolerant of sin.”* Reverend Thomas Watson

Romans 13:8

Entering a Better Future through Forgiveness

Forsake revenge

Matthew 5:43-46, 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighborand hate your enemy.’ 44But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? . . .

Only wish others well

Matthew 6:12, And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Return evil with good

1 Peter 3:9, Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Give people chances to grow

Colossians 2:14 (NLT), He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

Intercede for their welfare

Luke 23:34, Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Value redemptive

1 Corinthians 1:30, . . . you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Extend help

Matthew 16:27, For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

