

Freedom in Forgiveness

Noah - Matthew 18:23-35

The Great News

- ▶ A King who LOOKS to settle outstanding accounts.
- ▶ The servants debt can't POSSIBLY be reconciled.
- ▶ The King is moved to act with mercy and COMPASSION.

The Ironic Turn

- ▶ The servant treats another with COMPLETE DISREGARD for the mercy he just received.

The Warning

- ▶ Refusal to extend the MERCY we receive can have dire consequences.
- ***Consider:** Matt. 6:12 *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.* **Notice the equation:** Grant me forgiveness = to what I grant others!

Forgiving is like breathing - we take it in and let it out. To omit either, kills us.

Rex

The degree of forgiveness depends upon the depth of the resentment.

COMMUNION

Our Lord Himself gave us the supper.

At this table, we meet with our Savior, look back upon his sacrifice, ask for and receive forgiveness, and renew our commitment.

- ▶ "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." -1 Corinthians 11:26
- ▶ "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus" -Revelation 22:20

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Verses for reflection:

Psalm 51

Dan. 9:19 O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act!

Psa. 130:4 But with you there is forgiveness

Matt. 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 11:25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

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.

Col. 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Quotable:

The only thing harder than forgiveness is the alternative. - Philip Yancey, What's So Amazing About Grace

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." - C.S. Lewis, Essays on Forgiveness

Forgive us, our Father, for we have sinned, pardon us, our King, for we have transgressed; for You pardon and forgive. Blessed are You, Lord, the gracious One who repeatedly forgives. - Koren Siddur, Jewish Prayer Book

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." - Lewis Smedes, Forgive and Forget

Notes:

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