

**BIG IDEA: We forgive b/c we’re forgiven much. We have a great God who forgives us far more than we can forgive.**

### 1) INTRO

• A mother ran into the bedroom when she heard her 7 yr-old son scream. She found his 2 yr-old sister pulling his hair. She gently released the little girl's grip and said to the boy, “She didn't mean it. She doesn't know that hurts.” He nodded his acknowledgement, and the mother left the room. As she started down the hall she heard the little girl screaming. Rushing back in, she asked, “What happened?” The little boy replied, “She knows now.”

- Getting even...revenge...that’s where we’d often rather go
- Talking about forgiveness today

### 2) vv21-22 – PETER’S QUESTION

- In last few chapters, JC has just told his disciples – and us – of his coming death and resurrection
  - And, in light of that, the disciples – and us – still struggle
  - 17:4 – disciples leaned on own strength to drive demon out
  - 18:1 – disciples came asking who’s the greatest in kingdom
  - Today, after JC talked last week of what to do when a brother sins against us, Peter asks what the boundaries are of forgiving
    - Repeated, personal forgiveness is what talked about here
- “How often should I forgive my brother or sister...seven times?”
  - Rabbinic discussion was that a brother be forgiven for a repeated sin 3 times...but not 4 (from Amos)
  - So, Peter’s trying to act big-hearted & generous
  - He offers that he’s willing to forgive even up to 7 times...that’s more than 3!
    - But, JC doesn’t give generous Peter the thumbs up
    - Instead, JC sets a cap that’s so high that keeping score is impossible
- JC corrects Peter and instructs us that it’s not 3 times or 7 times, but 77 times
  - 77 times or 70 x 7 (490 times)...could take GRK either way

- 490 times – NASB, RSV, CSB, KJV, Old ESV
- 77 times – NIV, NET, updated ESV
- the GRK here follows the GRK of the LXX of Gen 4:24 which is the rendering of the HBRW 77
  - So, it’s likely 77...but the GRK could mean 70x7

- Regardless, the point JC is making is that we’re to forgive without keeping count
  - We’re to forgive without keeping tabs
  - Our forgiving others isn’t to be limited by frequency or quantity
  - The parable JC shows in the rest of our text is that we’ve all been forgiven far more than we’ll ever forgive

### 3) vv23-27 – THE MASTER FORGIVES

- JC uses a parable to help Peter – and us – understand the extent to which we’ve been forgiven
  - Which should fuel our forgiving others
  - Remember the context has to do w/ repeated, personal forgiveness
  - JC is showing us that we serve a great master/king who’s forgiven us far more than we can forgive
    - Failure to forgive means that one doesn’t understand and appreciate the extend to which we’ve been forgiven
    - B/c JC makes it clear how heirs of God’s kingdom have been forgiven
- In JC parable, the servant owed his master 10,000 talents
  - 1 talent was about 20 yrs wages for a laborer
  - 200,000 yrs wages
  - “murion” – myriad...a zillion (exaggerated language)
    - essentially an uncountable amount of \$\$
  - The point is that this is an astronomical price to pay back
- Servant has no way to pay this back his master – this is an impossible task to pay back such an amount
  - But, the servant still begs his master to have patience with him and that he’ll pay everything back
  - So, the master takes pity on him & cancels the debt

- The master/king releases servant & forgives his debt
- What's interesting is the servant's thinking that he can still pay back such a huge debt
  - We see that he knows his need here
  - But, he still thinks he can save himself & pay back his debt
  - He sees his need...but, he doesn't see his pride
    - Just what we saw last week, isn't it?
- Many Christians think they can make up for their sin by doing good
  - Good attitudes, thoughts, words, and actions surely flow out of a heart that's surrendered to JC as Savior & Lord
  - But, good attitudes, thoughts, words, and actions don't eliminate all our sin
    - Only JC can do that
    - And, he did
      - Our sin-debt is too great to pay back
        - Beyond our capacity/ability to repay
      - But, not too big for JC
        - King JC's cancellation of our sin-debt is our only hope
  - But, this servant still doesn't understand the mercy his master has shown him...and he's still prideful

#### 4) vv28-31 – THE SERVANT'S APPALLING ATTITUDE

- His horrible attitude plays out on these verses
  - His attitude's appalling
- He went out and found his fellow servant who owed him 100 denarii
  - A denarii was a day's wage for a laborer
    - So, his fellow servant owed him 100 days' wages
  - You'd think he'd be reasonable given the fact that he was just forgiven the equivalent of 73 million days' wages
    - 100 days is nothing compared to 73 million days...trivial
  - But, he's anything but reasonable and humble
    - He attacks his comrade who pleads for the same mercy just as he did with his master in v26
  - But, the one who's been forgiven refuses to forgive & has him thrown in prison until he'll pay his debt

- When we've been forgiven so greatly for all our sin-debt against our holy God, that should fuel us to forgive others
  - Not to act like cats
- And, his fellow servants saw what took place and told the master everything
  - GRK word for everything here carries forth the idea that they explained everything in detail

#### 5) vv32-35 – THE KING'S ANGER

- As word comes back to the master of this servant's unwillingness to forgive such a small amount – after he's been forgiven such a massive amount – the master calls him “wicked”
  - His heart remained proud, ungrateful, & unloving even though he was granted such mercy
    - He deserved to endure condemnation & punishment b/c of such a debt
      - But, the master showed mercy
      - Didn't give him what he deserved
  - His master/king reprimands him that he should have extended mercy just as he received mercy
  - And, in anger the master delivered him over to the jailers...torturers
- In v35 JC explains the point of his parable
  - That God will do to us if we don't forgive our brothers and sisters in our hearts
  - Refusal to forgive shows that one doesn't have a grasp on the depth of his or her sin-debt
    - And, it doesn't yet grasp the infinite magnitude of God's mercy & forgiveness
    - B/c we've been forgiven much, we'll forgive others
    - If we don't forgive others, it means we haven't yet grasped how much we've been forgiven by God
    - We'll forgive b/c we've been forgiven much

#### 6) CONCL

- Chris Carrier & David McAllister

- Some of us have gone through some horrible hurts and pains and struggles that other's have put us through
  - And, we feel each other's hurts and pains as a body/family