

SERMON NOTES

The Forgiving Heart

The Debtor, The Creditor, The Prisoner

BIG IDEA: Forgiven much, forgive much.

Forgiveness that keeps a _____ was never forgiveness at all. [Matt. 18:21–22]

1. The Debtor

The parable opens on a day of reckoning.

- Jesus is not describing a large debt. He is using hyperbole here to describe an impossible one, on purpose. It cannot be _____. [Matt. 18:24]
- And that, is your _____.
- He was moved with _____, it welled up from inside the king himself, out of who he was, not out of anything the servant offered, and he _____ the debt. [Matt. 18:27]

Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you are able to pay.

2. The Creditor

The same man. Don't miss it, it's the hinge of the whole story.

- He had just been let go of a _____, and he grabbed his brother by the throat over an _____. [Matt. 18:28]
- He heard his own _____ prayed back to him. [Matt. 18:29]
- That's the madness of an unforgiving heart: it thinks if it can just make the other person _____, somehow the books will balance.

It's like drinking poison and waiting for the other man to die.

3. The Prisoner

The jailer becomes the jailed.

- The one truly imprisoned is never the brother we won't release. It is _____. [Matt. 18:34]
- A forgiveness worn only on the outside will leave you a _____ on the inside. [Matt. 18:35]
- If you are imprisoned by a heart of unforgiveness, you are holding the _____.

THE WAY OF FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:23–35 (KJV 1900)

²³ Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. ²⁹ And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ³⁰ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. ³² Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: ³³ Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee? ³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. ³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.