

as I had on you?’³⁴ In anger his master turned 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 from your heart.”

LESSONS FROM THE PARABLE

1. We are Servants with a _____ that we could never pay.

MATTHEW 18:23-25: “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.²⁵ Since 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.

“In NT times, it was a unit of monetary reckoning (though not an actual coin), valued at about 6,000 drachmas, the equivalent of about 20 years’ wages for a laborer. (A common laborer earned about one denarius per day.) In approximate modern equivalents, if a laborer earns \$15 per hour, at 2,000 hours per year he would earn \$30,000 per year, and a talent would equal \$600,000 (USD). Hence, “ten thousand talents” hyperbolically represents an incalculable debt—in today’s terms, about \$6 billion.”
ESV Study Bible notes on Matthew 18:24

2. God is the _____ King who _____ our sin debt unconditionally.

MATTHEW 18:26-37: “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.”

PSALM 103:8-10: “The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.”

3. Our response to God’s mercy should be to extend _____ to others.

MATTHEW 18:28-30: “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.”²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.”

“This was still a large amount (equivalent to about 20 weeks of common labor, or about \$12,000 in today’s terms), but compared to the debt that the wicked servant himself owed (\$6 billion), it was a relatively small amount.

The servant’s unwillingness to forgive even this amount, though having been forgiven his own insurmountable debt, reveals the servant’s true wicked character (v.32) and that he has not in fact been transformed by the forgiveness that his master has extended to him.” **ESV Study Bible Notes on Matt. 18:28-32**

MATTHEW 18:31-35: “When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?”³⁴ In anger his master turned 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 from your heart.”

KEY QUESTION: *Have you forgiven your spouse, or do you keep an account of wrongs committed?*

EXPOSING MYTHS About Forgiveness

MYTH #1: Forgiving means _____ (Is.43:25).

MYTH #2: Forgiving means full _____ is immediately _____ (2 Sam.11-12).

MYTH #3: Forgiveness is given only to those who _____ (Luke 17:3; 23:34).

SO WHY SHOULD YOU FORGIVE YOUR SPOUSE?

REASON #1: _____ wants to _____ your marriage (2 Cor.2:10-11).

REASON #2: You will set yourself _____ (Eph.4:31).

REASON #3: You are not _____ John 8:7-9).

REASON #4: _____ (Eph.4:32; 1 Pet. 3:18).

FINAL THOUGHTS

Forgiveness in marriage is a choice we make to extend to our spouse the same mercy we’ve received from God.
Choose today to keep no record of wrongs.

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next week is *the final week* of small groups for the summer. Consider ending your small group year with a BBQ and study.

PRAYER: Open your study in a word of prayer.

QUESTIONS:

- 1). What have you been learning from “*The Love Dare*” book this past week?
- 2). What new insight(s) did you glean from Sunday’s message?
- 3). Luke 17:3 says we are to forgive those who repent (turn from sin). What if our spouse does not repent, do we still need to forgive him/her? Why or why not?
- 4). Take some time to examine Luke 7:36-50 and how Jesus forgives. What insights can you glean from this passage regarding forgiveness?
- 5). Why is it a myth to say ‘forgiving means forgetting’? Is ‘forgetting’ something your spouse did an essential component of forgiveness? How might this myth hinder a marriage?
- 6). If your spouse does something that has violated your trust, and then they ask for forgiveness, does this mean they should be forgiven *and be restored to full trust*? Why or why not? How do consequences for our actions fit into your answer? (See 2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51 as an example of sin, repentance, consequences and forgiveness).
- 7). What do the following passages teach us about forgiveness in our marriages (Ephesians 4:26-27; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11)?

PRAYER TIME

Series: Fireproof Your Marriage
Today’s Message: “*Finding Forgiveness in Marriage*”
Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC / 05.03.09

Introduction:

2 Corinthians 2:10-11: “If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”

MATTHEW 18:21-22: “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

THE QUESTION & THE ANSWER

Peter wants to know how _____ to count, but Jesus doesn’t like us to keep _____.

Do the math? $70 \times 7 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$!

1 Corinthians 13:4-5: “Love is patient, love is kind...it keeps no record of wrongs.”

KEY QUESTION: *Do you keep records of the wrongs done by your spouse?*

AN ILLUSTRATION IN FORGIVENESS: *The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant*

MATTHEW 18:23-35: “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a **king** who wanted to settle accounts with **his servants**. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a **man who owed him ten thousand talents** was brought to him. ²⁵ Since 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. ²⁶ “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found **one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii**. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. ²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ ³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’ ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just