

Matthew 18:21-35

A New Beginning

January 5, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro -

v.15 - Jesus: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you've gained your brother."

v.21 - Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Forgiveness is unnatural.

What's natural? **Retaliation!**

1. Forgive, because Christ commands you to forgive.

v.22 - Jesus said to him, "I tell you, not 7 times, but 70 times 7."

1 Cor. 13:5 - Love keeps no record of wrongs.

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, *just as* God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 18:21-35

A New Beginning

January 5, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

2. Forgive, because the Lord forgave you.

v.23 - Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he'd begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

According to Vine's Dictionary of NT words:

- **one talent is equal to 6,000 denarii**
- **and a denarii was a day's wage**

What would that mean in today's economy?

- **Minimum wage is NJ just went up to \$11/hr.**
- **So, for an 8 hour day a person would make \$88 a day.**
- **\$88 a day x 6,000 days = \$528,000**
- **But that's what *one* talent equals.**
- **How many talents did the servant owe?**
- **10,000**
- **10,000 talents would be \$5.28 billion.**

v.25 - But as he wasn't able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I'll pay you all.'

Titus 3:5 - He saved us, not because of righteous things we've done, but because of His mercy.

v.27 - Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

Jeremiah 33:8 - I will cleanse them from all the iniquity they've committed against Me, and will forgive all their sins.

Matthew 18:21-35

A New Beginning

January 5, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Col. 2:13-14 - He forgave us all our trespasses, having *cancelled the debt* ...that stood against us. He took it away, nailing it to the cross!

v.28 - **“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii;**

“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I’ll pay you all.’ (Those were the exact same words he said to the king) And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he’d called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you *all that debt* because you begged me. Shouldn’t you have had compassion on your fellow servant, *just as I had pity on you?*’

Matthew 5:38ff - “You’ve heard it said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you... If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also... I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, in that way, *you’ll be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.*

"If you forgive--you'll be like Me--you'll be like My Father."

3. Forgive, because not forgiving hurts you.

Matthew 18:21-35

A New Beginning

January 5, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Conclusion - In one of her writings, Corrie Ten Boom tells of some Christian friends who wronged her in a public and malicious way. For many days she was bitter and angry until she forgave them. But at night she'd wake up thinking about what they'd done and get angry all over again. The memory wouldn't go away.

After two sleepless weeks, she confessed her frustration to a friend of hers. He told her, "Corrie, up in the church tower is a bell. When the sexton pulls the rope, the bell rings. What happens if he stops pulling the rope? *Slowly* the sound fades away. Forgiveness is like that. When we forgive someone we take our hand off the rope. But if we've been tugging at our grievances for a long time, we mustn't be surprised if the old angry thoughts keep coming for awhile. They're just the ding-dongs of the old bell slowing down."

So it's not surprising if after forgiveness, for awhile the memories keep coming back. If you refuse to dwell on them, slowly they'll fade away. Why? When you forgive, you let go of the rope and the force is gone out of your anger.

Forgive them because Christ commands you to forgive them.

Forgive them because Christ forgave you.

Forgive them because not forgiving them hurts you.
