

Giving, Not Just Receiving Mercy

3/11/2018

Sunday AM

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

Introduction

- Last week we discussed Reconciliation Before Worship.
- Too often in today's world people simply cut ties and move on, never giving reconciliation a true chance.
- We see that the Bible teaches that we should seek reconciliation before we worship.
- This morning we are going to build off of last week as we discuss **Giving, Not Just Receiving Mercy**.
- Mercy: compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.
- We are always willing to receive things, but not so quick to pass-it-forward.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²²Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Since 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.' ²⁷The 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. ³¹When 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. ³³Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴In 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."

- Vv.21-22 – We see that Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive someone, “up to seven times?”
- In those days, it was considered appropriate to forgive someone three times and then no more.
- Peter more than doubles this number in an attempt to be generous, or maybe because the number seven is the number of completion.
- Jesus answers him and says, “not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”
- This could also be translated “seventy times seven.” Whether the number is 77 or 490, doesn't really matter.
- Jesus was not trying to give a specific number that we could count in order to reach a point that we no longer forgive or show mercy to someone.
- Vv.23-24 – We see that Jesus begins this parable by saying, “the kingdom of heaven is like...”
- The king in the parable had a servant that owed him 10,000 talents, a huge sum of money.
- To properly understand this, this was the same sum of money that King David donated to build God's temple (1 Chronicles 29:4). In today's currency it is around \$20 million dollars.
- It would have been almost impossible for this man to ever repay this debt.
- Vv.25-26 – The man obviously didn't have the cash in hand, so the king ordered that all the man's possessions as well as him and his family be sold to repay the debt. This was a common ancient practice.
- He fell on his knees and begged the king to “be patient” with him and that he would “pay back everything.”
- The servant was simply asking the king to give him a little more time in order to pay the debt.
- V.27 – The unthinkable happened, the king “too pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.”
- WOW! He didn't grant the man more time to repay, he CANCELED the debt altogether!

- V. 28 – “BUT” as the servant left he ran into one of his fellow servants who owed him 100 denarii, he began to choke his servant demanding that he repay the debt.
 - 100 denarii was quite a lot of money to a common person in those days, it was worth 100 day’s work and equated to around \$20 in today’s money.
 - V.29 – This servant took the same posture that the first servant took before the king, he fell to his knees and begged for patience in order to repay the debt. This was a debt that could absolutely be repaid in time.
 - V.30 – “BUT, he refused...!” He had the man thrown into prison until the debt was repaid to him.
 - Vv.31-32 – Word of this got back to the master and he had the first servant summoned back to him.
 - He called him, “You wicked servant,” as he reminded him of the great debt that was cancelled for him.
 - V.33 – The master asked a wonderful and deep question to the “wicked servant,” “Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?”
 - The expectation was that the same level of mercy would be passed forward.
 - V. 34 – The master was so angry, he had the man thrown into prison to be tortured until all of the debt could be paid.
 - How long would the man have to be in prison and be tortured in order to repay the debt? Eternity.
 - Jesus ends this parable equating the events with how God will treat us, unless we forgive others from our hearts.
-
- This parable illustrates perfectly how we all act today.
 - We are more than willing to accept and receive things for ourselves.
 - However, when it comes time to pay-it-forward, we are less willing to share our blessings with others.
 - This applies to material and spiritual blessings.
 - Just like the first servant, we had a debt cancelled by Christ that we would have never been able to repay.
 - It was a debt that was rightfully owed to Christ, however He loved us enough to cancel our sin debt totally.
 - The problem is, that we have been showed so much mercy, but are unwilling to show the tiniest bit of mercy ourselves.
-
- **When you have been forgiven for owing \$20 million, shouldn’t it be easy to forgive \$20?**
 - Jesus is not asking us to do something that requires more from us than we currently have.
 - He is asking is that we give away up to the same amount that we have been given and in the same manner.
 - We cannot have reconciliation without forgiveness.
 - The last couple of verses from our text this morning really illustrates clearly to us how God will react.
 - If, we are unwilling to forgive others and to show them mercy, we will also not be forgiven and will have no mercy shown to us either.
 - Do you know this morning that you are saved? Do you know that if you died today, you’d go to Heaven?
 - One way to gauge this is your capacity to forgive.
 - Again, He is not asking us to pull from our own resources, He is simply asking us to give out of the account that He deposits into. That should be too hard, but it is.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Heaven

Chapters 14-16:

Where and when will our deliverance come?

Will the old earth be destroyed...or renewed?

Will the New Earth be Familiar...like home?