

## INTRODUCTION

We are learning from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to pray, “Our Father which art in heaven...forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

We pray this conscious of our own sins, our own transgression of God’s law, our own failure to love Him and to love other people. We admit or confess our sins; we hate that sinfulness in us; we turn from it, and return to Him wholeheartedly.

We believe, then, that He forgives our debts, considering them paid in full by the blood our Savior, Jesus Christ, shed when He died on the cross.

We believe that God grants us remission of sins; He will not punish us for what we have done, because He reckons that our sins are punished in what Jesus suffered for us, and He counts us as righteous in Jesus Christ by faith in Him, because Jesus Christ is righteous, never having sinned at all.

The first matter regarding forgiveness is to seek forgiveness from God in Jesus Christ. But there is another matter regarding forgiveness, and that is to forgive others who have wronged us; figuratively, to forgive our debtors, anyone who is in debt to us by any sin he has committed against us.

Last time we looked into the important consideration of forbearance. To forbear is what we do when a person has wronged us, but has not repented, has not admitted he wronged us, has not told us he is sorry, has not asked to be forgiven. We forbear him. We hold ourselves back from anything like getting even or trying to punish him. We wait patiently, however long it might be, ready to forgive. When he repents, we forgive.

Now, as to forgiving our debtors. Obviously this is more easily said than done. Our Lord Jesus knows us, knows we need help in this. We need to pray about it. We need to be warned about the seriousness of it. We need a model to follow in doing it.

So let’s look today at the parable our Lord Jesus has provided, in which we are exhorted regarding the grace by which we can forgive our debtors, even as God in Christ Jesus forgives us.

## TEXT

NKJV Matthew 18:33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’

## BODY

## I. The Words

### A. Greek

1. what the lord had done, and what the servant should have done are the same word
  - a) Shouldn't you have done this to your fellow servant, just as I did this to you?
2. verb G1653 *eleeo* unknown etymology

### B. Hebrew H2603 *chanan*

1. Strong: properly to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor...be merciful, show mercy, have pity

### C. English

1. three words
  - a) compassion
  - b) pity
  - c) mercy
2. compassion and pity are synonymous, and have to do with the feelings or emotions, feeling strongly toward someone who is in distress; in God's case, not properly emotions or feeling, but knowledge and understanding of someone's distress
3. mercy is almost synonymous with those two words, but has to do more with doing something to relieve the distress, rather than just understanding and feeling the distress
4. our words do not all have a verb form
  - a) pity does
  - b) compassion used to be used as a verb, as did compassionate, but only obscurely
  - c) mercy does not have a verb form

So, we are talking about something that we are to do toward sinners, because the Lord has done it toward us. We use the words compassion, pity, and mercy to describe it, but whichever word we use, we mean the same thing.

## II. God Has Had Compassion, Pity, Mercy Toward Us As His Debtors

### A. Because this is who He is

1. Psalm 145:8 The LORD is gracious [H2587 *channun* from H2603] and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.
2. one term here to describe his long suffering or patience: slow to anger
3. three terms here to describe Him as to the concept we are studying today
  - a) gracious
  - b) merciful or full of compassion
  - c) of great mercy or abounding in steadfast love
4. so, for God to deal with a sinner or debtor in compassion, pity, mercy, is because of His being, His perfections---that is who He is

### B. Because this is what He knows we need

1. Psalms 103:8-14 The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.
2. 1 Timothy 1:13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

### C. Because this is His will

1. Romans 9:15-18 For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY G1653 ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE MERCY G1653, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE COMPASSION." 16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy G1653.
2. sinner or debtors to God deserve to have Him just harden them in their sinfulness, as He did with Pharaoh in the time of Moses
3. but by His will, He has mercy, He has compassion

God has pity, compassion, mercy toward us, His debtors, because that is who He is, because that is what we need, and because that is His will

### III. We Are to Forgive as God Forgives Us

- A. We forgive BECAUSE God forgives us, but we also forgive AS God forgives us (Mt 18:33)
- B. See this in the parable
  - 1. the debtor owed an enormous debt
  - 2. the debtor pleaded with the king
  - 3. the king had pity, compassion, mercy toward him
  - 4. the king released him and forgave or cancelled the debt
- C. See this in the analysis we made earlier from Psalms and Romans
  - 1. We work from the pity, compassion, mercy that God has created in us
    - a) in Him it is perfection
    - b) in human beings it is a virtue, present to a degree even in our flesh, even since we sinned
      - (1) we see someone in distress
      - (2) our shared or common humanity stirs up compassion or pity in us
      - (3) we have a desire to relieve the person's suffering
    - c) in Christians it also is a grace, worked in us by the Holy Spirit
  - 2. We look on our debtor
    - a) not according to the wrong he has done to us
    - b) but according to the distress he is in, the need he has
  - 3. We determine the matter by our will; we will to show mercy

### CONCLUSION

We are learning to pray, "Our Father which art in heaven...forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

So, as we pray that, part of what we are praying is that God, who forgives us our debts by His pity, His compassion, His mercy, will teach us to forgive our debtors, also, by that same pity, that same compassion, that same mercy.

Dillon - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - 1 Chronicles 29:10b-13

Conner - Scripture Reading - Genesis 50:15-21

Thad - Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Rita - Prelude

Angie - Trinity 705 "Grace Greater Than Our Sin"

Allison - Trinity 2 "God, My King, Thy Might Confessing" - Andrew lead

Haven - Trinity 403 "Not What My Hands Have Done"

James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

GEN, KJV: pitiful

NKJV, ESV, CSB: compassionate

### Pity

Webster 1828 - 1. The feeling or suffering of one person, excited by the distresses of another; sympathy with the grief or misery of another; compassion or fellow-suffering...In Scripture however, the word pity usually includes compassion accompanied with some act of charity or benevolence, and not simply a fellow feeling of distress.

### Compassion

Webster 1828 - A suffering with another; painful sympathy; a sensation of sorrow excited by the distress or misfortunes of another; pity; commiseration. Compassion is a mixed passion, compounded of love and sorrow; at least some portion of love generally attends the pain or regret, or is excited by it. Extreme distress of an enemy even changes enmity into at least temporary affection.

### Mercy

Webster 1828 - 1. That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict less than law or justice will warrant. In this sense, there is perhaps no word in our language precisely synonymous with mercy. That which comes nearest to it is grace. It implies benevolence, tenderness, mildness, pity or compassion, and clemency, but exercised only towards offenders. Mercy is a distinguishing attribute of the Supreme Being.

### 1689.2.1

...without body, parts, or passions...

### Jesus Christ as compassionate in His human nature

Hebrews 2:16-18 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

## Psalm 86

Psalm 86:1-17 A Prayer of David. Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for I am poor and needy. 2 Preserve my soul; for I am holy: O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee. 3 Be merciful [ESV, CSB gracious] unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily. 4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. 5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy [ESV, CSB abounding in steadfast/faithful love] **unto all them that call upon thee**. 6 Give ear, O LORD, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. 7 In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me. 8 Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. 9 All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. 10 For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone. 11 Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. 12 I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. 13 For great is thy mercy toward me: [ESV/CSB steadfast/faithful love] and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell. 14 O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent men have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them. 15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. 16 O turn unto me, and have mercy [ESV/CSB be gracious] upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid. 17 Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

**Matthew 18:27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.**

G4697 *splagchnizomai* verb

Strong: to have the bowels yearn; to feel sympathy; to pity; to have compassion  
from G4698 *splagchnon* the spleen; figuratively pity or sympathy

WYC: hadde merci

TYN: had...pytie

GEN, CSB: had compassion

KJV, NKJV: was moved with compassion

Moffatt, ESV: out of pity

**KJV Matthew 18:33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?**

NKJV Matthew 18:33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'

G1653 *eleeo*

Strong: to compassionate; have compassion (pity on); to show mercy  
from G1656 *eleos* compassion; mercy

WYC: have merci - hadde merci

TYN: have had compassion - had pitie

Tyndale translated this word with "mercy" almost every time; "compassion" twice; "pity" this once.

GEN: had pitie - had pitie

KJV, NKJV: had compassion - had pity

CSB, ESV: had mercy - had mercy

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful G1655, For they shall obtain mercy G1653.

Matthew 9:27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy G1653 on us!" [many verses use G1653 like this]

1 Peter 2:10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy G1653 but now have obtained mercy G1653.

Romans 9:15-18 For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY G1653 ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE MERCY G1653, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE COMPASSION." 16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy G1653. 17 For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I HAVE RAISED YOU UP, THAT I MAY SHOW MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MAY BE DECLARED IN ALL THE EARTH." 18 Therefore He has mercy G1653 on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

Exodus 33:19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious H2603 to whom I will be gracious H2603, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

H2603 *chanan*

Strong: properly to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor...be merciful, show mercy, have pity

Psalms 51:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David When Nathan the Prophet Went to Him, After He Had Gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy G2603 upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.