

HOW TO UNFORGIVE

Matthew 18:23-35

10,000 talents was a humongous amount, _____ in today's money, an amount no one could pay off
100 denarii was the wages of a common laborer for 100 days, about _____, a sum many could pay off
The blackness of the sin of unforgiveness set **against the backdrop of God's infinite** _____ in Christ

I. THE CRUX OF UNFORGIVENESS

A. Unforgiveness Is a _____

- 1) Often we are demanding retribution or _____; you hurt me so I demand to hurt you
- 2) At times Christians demand _____ or confession but without telling the offender about it

B. Unforgiveness Begins with a _____

When someone really offends us we often mentally build and polish a _____ against the offender

- 1) We usually refuse to judge _____ by the same standard by which we judge others
This is why Christ directed us to take the _____ out of our own eyes before we judge others
- 2) We judge others by a standard that we do not want Almighty _____ to apply to our offenses

C. Unforgiveness Puts the Offender in _____

- 1) We not only act as Judge, Jury, but _____; we confine the offender in solitary confinement
- 2) We give them the _____ treatment until they pay what we demand, repentance or worse

II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNFORGIVENESS

A. Unforgiveness Affects Those _____ Us

- 1) Hebrews 12:15 warns of a root of _____ springing up by which many become defiled
- 2) **The word "defiled" = stained: bitterness** creates an atmosphere that stains _____ around us

B. Unforgiveness Causes _____ to Be Angry with Us

- 1) Debt against the king was calculated in talents, the largest denomination of money then; Jesus spoke of talents because every sin against God is a _____ sin even if the world deems it small
- 2) Debt against others was calculated in denarii, not the smallest denomination (lepta); God does not _____ the weight of the sins others commit against us; He gives them due consideration
- 3) But what others have done to hurt us is insignificant compared to our sins against _____
- 4) Christians wrestle with unforgiveness because they do not properly _____ the honor of God

C. Unforgiveness Affects Us Personally and _____

- 1) Christ intends to take the _____ of salvation from those who cherish unforgiveness
- 2) The Christian does not automatically _____ his salvation because of unforgiveness
- 3) But Christ does intend to warn the unforgiving that their eternal souls are in _____
- 4) "If your heart is unforgiving, pluck out that heart—do whatever is necessary to be rid of an unforgiving heart—better that than for your whole body to be cast into an eternal _____"

CONC: Forgive by an act of the _____ and expect God to work the miracle of forgiveness in our hearts