

Hope Shared!
Matt 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Choice #4: Choose to free people rather than hurt them.

Week 6 Bible Verse:

Be ready at all times
to answer anyone who asks you
to explain the hope
you have in you,
(1 Peter 3:15)

I. Jesus offers a proactive prescription for a painful reality. (v. 23-27)

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like **a king who wanted to settle accounts** with his servants.

1. Choose to settle accounts. (v.24)

As **he began the settlement**, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

2. Admit a satisfactory accounting is impossible. (v. 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.

3. Practice sympathetic accounting in your relationships. (v. 26-27)

“The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ***The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.***

II. Jesus offers a ***probative*** look at a painful reality. (V.28-30)

21 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?”

1. Man’s bitterness leads to ***retribution***. (v.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.

2. Man’s bitterness leads to ***revenge***. (v.30)

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and ***had the man thrown into prison*** until he could pay the debt.

3. Man’s bitterness leads to ***repulsion***. (v.31)

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

III. Jesus offers a ***prognosis*** for this painful reality. (v.32-35)

“Then the master called the servant in. ***‘You wicked servant,’*** he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

1. You will be ***confronted*** for your double standard. (v.33)

Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'

2. You will be **confined** for your double standard. (v.34)

In anger ***his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured***, until he should pay back all he owed.

3. You will be **consumed** by your double standard. (v.35)

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

GRACE

"You can't breathe out
What you haven't breathed in."