

In the Bible - **MERCY** is **Compassion In Action**  
**toward** someone who **doesn't** deserve it - [REPEAT]

**2 Cor 1:3** calls God **the Father of Mercy-** & **ALL** that **Jesus**  
came to do **for us**, came from **his MERCY** toward us

In the **most sacrificial way** possible, **The Lord of Glory**  
acted in **Eternal Compassion** toward those  
**who did not, could not,** and **never will** – **Deserve his MERCY**

**MERCY** is **Compassion In Action**  
**toward** someone who **doesn't** deserve it

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& the Bible's **LEVEL** of **MERCY** – That **LEADS** to **Divine Forgiveness**  
Is **Not something** We Can Produce from **OUR** Own Nature

The **ONLY** way we can **GIVE Divine Forgiveness** - is by  
the **Life** of **Jesus** Christ Living **IN us** - & **THRU us**

& **HOW Important** is it – that we **Live** in this **Divine Mercy** ?

### **James 2:13 (NLT)**

***13 There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.***

### **Matthew 5:7 (ESV)**

***7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.***

In Mat 18 – this MERCY– we call DIVINE FORGIVENESS  
It's Forgiving that person in our lives – who doesn't deserve it

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& We'll SEE today - God calls us to Divine Forgiveness  
FOR Our OWN Good  
to FREE US, from the TORTURE of Unforgiveness

God has Made a Way - to SAVE You from the Self-Inflicted  
PRISON of UN-Forgiveness

By offering you HIS OWN Divine Forgiveness – BOTH, For yourself,  
& for the person in your life who could NEVER deserve it

Let's Pray

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Unforgiveness - & the sins that come FROM IT  
bring BONDAGE & DESTRUCTION - into a Christian's Life

But God has Given you his Unfailing MERCY  
to FREE you from the TORTURE of Unforgiveness

ALtho I KNOW - that SOME here have had Very Serious  
& Very Traumatic events in their lives

& I am NOT saying – that Divine Forgiveness  
is EASY – or INSTANTANEOUS

But I am saying - God Desires to FREE you from the  
BONDAGE & DESTRUCTION of Unforgiveness in your life

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**& so - I'd like YOU (right now) - to ask GOD - to SHOW you**  
that **PERSON** – that you need to **Forgive**  
that **SITUATION** - you need to **Forgive**

& as **we Go On** - Please - **ALLOW** the **Holy Spirit** to Continue  
to **Bring up** that **PERSON** or **SITUATION** in your mind

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& So – **I want** to show you - **3 SUPERNATURAL Steps**  
to **Experience Divine Forgiveness** in your life  
**ALL** of which we get – from this **Parable** in **MAT Ch 18**

### **3 Supernatural Steps to Divine Forgiveness**

- #1) We must Receive God's Mercy**
- #2) We must Make the Comparison**
- #3) We must Give Out God's Mercy**

These are **Supernatural - Transforming Steps** - That will  
**Enable** you to **WALK IN** God's **Divine Forgiveness**  
& **Will SAVE YOU** from the **Bondage of UNFORGIVENESS**

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**In Mat 18 - Jesus** had just **finished** the section  
on how to “**Correctly**” **Correct** another **Believer**

The **ESV** titles that **section** – “**If you Brother Sins Against You**”

### **Then in Matthew 18:21 (ESV)**

**21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”**

That **certainly** sounds **reasonable** – *7 Times?*

In fact - **from Peter** – it might even **sound** a little **PRIDEFUL**

**Peter** was **never afraid** – to **Open** his **Mouth** – or **Stick** His **FOOT** in it  
& so – **Jesus corrects** him in

### **Matthew 18:22 (ESV)**

**22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.”**

The **NLT** (& other trans.) says **Seventy Times Seven**

The **Original** can be **translated both ways**

But – **whether it’s 77, or 70 Times 7 - everyone** is in agreement

**Jesus** is saying – **We** are Called to **FORGIVE**

“An **UNLIMITED** amount of times”

& then **Jesus tells us a parable** - to help us **UNDERSTAND**

Just How **HIGH** a “**PRIORITY**” God puts **On US**

Living in **HIS Divine Forgiveness**

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All **Three Steps** to **Divine Forgiveness** are in this Parable

**#1) We Receive God’s Mercy**

**#2) We Make the Comparison**

**#3) We Give God’s Mercy**

Let’s **read thru** it - & you’ll **see EACH** of the steps

## **Matthew 18:23–24 (ESV)**

**23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.**

**24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.**

### **So – let’s set the stage correctly**

The **KING** is **GOD**

The **SERVANT** with the Debt – is **YOU**

& **Jesus** says (v.23)

***the kingdom of heaven may be compared to THIS situation***

& in V.24 - **YOU** owe **GOD** – a **DEBT** of **10,000 Talents**

### **10,000 TALENTS is an Absolutely - Unrepayable Debt**

**ESV** Footnote = **20 Yrs wages**

**NLT** Footnote = **375 TONS of Silver**

**YOU** Owed the **KING of Heaven**

an **Unimaginable** & **Unrepayable DEBT**

### **& so - Matthew 18:25 says (ESV)**

**25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold (as a slave), with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.**

**This** was the **Normal** & **Customary response** at the time

In fact - This was the **Correct** & **“Righteous” Response**

When a **Debt** like this could **NOT** be **Re-Paid**

**IN the SAME WAY** – the **WRATH** of **God's Judgment**

Is the **Correct** & **"Righteous" Response** - to your **Debt of SIN**

**Then - cont'g in Matthew 18:26 (ESV)**

***26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'***

**Could** he, **Really?**

**Could** the Servant **ever PAY** this **"Un-Repayable Debt"**?

**No** – Of course he **could NEVER** Re-Pay it

**JUST AS** we could **Never Re-Pay** God for the **Debt of our SIN**

& **So** - The **MASTER Responds** in

**Matthew 18:27 (ESV)**

***27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.***

The **Master** – The **KING of Heaven** – Had **PITY** on **YOU!** –

& **RELEASED** You – And **FORGAVE** your **Debt!**

**Most** of the **Translations** use the word **COMPASSION** here (Pity)

***"The master was moved with compassion"***

**Harper's Bible Dictionary:** This Word (Pity) describes a Person showing Significant Kindness to someone who DOES NOT Deserve the Kindness - & CANNOT Repay it

## **THIS is STEP #1 – We Must RECEIVE God’s MERCY**

We “**RECEIVE**” God’s **Mercy**

**When** we are **FORGIVEN & RELEASED** from our **Debt of SIN**

**THAT** is What **God** has Done for **US**

If **YOU** are **Saved today** (By you putting your **Faith** in **Jesus** Christ)

**God has NOT Given you what your Sin Deserves**

**Instead** (in his **MERCY**) God has **RELEASED** You,  
& **FORGIVEN** the **Unrepayable Debt** that you owed him

**& so 1<sup>st</sup> – We must RECEIVE God’s Mercy**

& we’ll **TALK MORE** about **RECEIVING** God’s Mercy  
when we **talk** about **Step #3 – Giving God’s Mercy**

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**Now we move to YOU & Your Dealings**  
with the **person** who has **wronged you**

& we **SEE** - **STEP #2 – We Must MAKE the Comparison**

**Matthew 18:28(A) (ESV)**

***28 But when that same servant went out (that’s you), he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii . . .***

So - **you went** out and **FOUND** one of your **fellow servants** - -  
You **went LOOKING** for him . . .

& that person owes you 100 Denari – (3 month's Wages)

Now – In the Previous Vs – you were just Forgiven  
a debt of 1,040 Months wages (20 years)

(over 300 times MORE than this person owes you )

& then – in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of V.28 – we see what you do  
when you find that person who has wronged you

Let's read the full Vs - Matthew 18:28 (ESV)

*28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'*

THAT doesn't seem right, does it?

Jesus is COMPARING how MUCH God has Forgiven YOU  
With how MUCH - YOU have Forgiven OTHERS

HOW are we DOING – MAKING the COMPARISON?

As Freely Forgiven Christians – How are we doing  
in Freely Forgiving those who have wronged us?

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Is there a CHANCE – that we are actually holding  
Someone who has Wronged us – in some sort of PRISON

Even if it's in a Prison just *"in our own Minds"*  
As we refuse to even consider Forgiving them

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**So** – in our **Parable**:

You **track down** your **fellow servant** - get them in a **Choke-Hold**

& **THEY** try to say to **YOU** – Exactly what **YOU** Said to **GOD**

**Matthew 18:29–30 (ESV)**

*29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’*

*30 (but) He (that’s you) refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.*

This “**Servants Servant**” asked for the **same Mercy** **that** the **Servant** had just **received**

**But** – the **Servant** who had been **Forgiven SO MUCH** shows **NO Mercy** – to the **one** who **Owes** him **MUCH LESS**

& **then** he **throws** his **fellow servant** into **Prison** until he **PAYS FOR** What he’s **Done** !!

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**FOR US**- the **most Dangerous** Prison we can **put people** in who have **wronged us** – is the **Prison** of **OUR OWN Minds**

We **hold them** in there - & we **TRY** to **make them PAY**

But – **what happens** – most **often** is **WE** are the ones - who **end up** - **IN BONDAGE**

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& then – I think v.31 may possibly be  
the SADDEST Vs in the entire Parable

Because in v.31 – I Imagine the ANGELS  
going to Jesus on this whole thing

### Matthew 18:31 (ESV)

*31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.*

Can you see the Angels – In DISBELIEF – Going to Jesus - & Saying

*“Lord, It cost you SO MUCH, to Forgive that person –  
& you GAVE them that Forgiveness SO FREELY  
But then, they hunted down a person who had wronged them  
& they choked them out,  
& threw them in Prison - to MAKE THEM PAY  
Lord, something doesn’t seem right in all that”*

& so – in Vs’s 32-33 – Jesus “Makes The Comparison”

### Matthew 18:32-33 (ESV)

*32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.*

*33 And shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant, AS I had mercy on you?’*

The NLT for V.33 says - *Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?*

The Words - **JUST AS** - (or **AS** in ESV) – Mean  
***In the same way, or to the same extent***

***Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant, [in the same way, to the same extent, as] I had mercy on you?***

**Shouldn't WE** – Be Showing **MERCY** to others - ***in the same way***  
that **God** has Shown **MERCY** to US?

**We MUST MAKE THIS COMPARISON**

& **I Know** – **sometimes** this **Seems**  
**IMPOSSIBLE** to **DO**

& **I Know** – there are **Situations**  
that **make** this seem **UNIMAGINABLE**

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But – **What if** I told you that **Showing MERCY,**  
& **Giving DIVINE FORGIVENESS** in your **life**  
**Was** actually for **YOUR Own Good**

**WHAT IF God is calling us to Live in Divine Forgiveness**  
in **order** to **Keep US** from Being **TORTURED**  
By our **UN-Forgiveness?**

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Regarding **the Servant** - who would **NOT Forgive**  
in the **Same Way** as He had **Been Forgiven**

**We read in - Matthew 18:34 (ESV)**

***34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.***

The **ESV translates** this word “**JAILERS**” – But if you **look** at the “**Foot Note**” in your **ESV** – it says “**TORTURERS**”

The **NLT** – Just **writes** it as it is

### **Matthew 18:34 (NLT)**

**34 Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.**

**What** do you **mean** - **TO BE TORTURED** – Until he had **PAID** his **Entire Debt** . . . That’s **seems** a little **Radical** doesn’t it?

**Is God** saying – **THAT will happen to me**, If I **refuse** to **Forgive** **those** who have **wronged me** in my life?

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**All we can do is read the Next Vs**

### **Matthew 18:35 (ESV)**

**35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”**

**So also** means - **That’s what my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart**

**Seriously** Jesus? You would **Allow** **THAT** to happen to **ME**?  
**I mean, remember** how much **you love me** and all . . .

**Are you saying** I will be **TORTURED** – If I **refuse** to **Forgive** **in the same way** that you have **forgiven me?**

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**Please** hear me – **Hardened Unforgiveness**  
becomes **Mental** & **Emotional TORTURE** in your Life

We **THINK** – we are all “**In Control**” by **NOT Forgiving**  
But our **Unforgiveness ALWAYS** ends up - **Controlling US**  
& our **UN-Forgiveness** – **WILL** become a **Ruthless Torturer!!**

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**BUT** – God **Doesn't leave** us with **JUST** the **Command**

God **NEVER** Leaves **US** with **JUST a COMMAND**  
**As if** we could **accomplish ANY** of this - on our **Own**

By **HIS LIFE** taking over **OUR LIFE** –  
Jesus Christ **BECOMES** Divine Forgiveness – **IN US**

**This** is **Not something** we can **Work Up**  
or **TRY HARDER** to Attain

**This** is something we **SURRENDER** to the Lord  
& **Jesus** Christ **Living Inside** of Us  
**BECOMES** our **Divine Forgiveness** – **FOR US**

**Jesus says** - I've given you **MYSELF** - as the **POWER** for you  
to be **FREED** from the **Torture of Unforgiveness**

**YOUR Part** is to **Continually CHOOSE**

To **WALK** in the **New Life** of **Divine Forgiveness**  
that **Jesus Christ** has given to **you**

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## **& So – STEP #3 – We Must GIVE OUT God’s Mercy**

- 1) We’ve **RECEIVED God’s Mercy**
- 2) We’ve **Made the Comparison** – in order to Crucify our Flesh
- 3) Now we **GIVE God’s Mercy** that is Inside of us

We **ALLOW** - The **DIVINE Nature of God**  
To **REPLACE** our **SIN NATURE**

**We Allow** God’s **MERCY** Living inside us  
to **“REPLACE”** our **UNFORGIVENESS**

& **Then** . . . We Give **THAT** Out !

We **GIVE - DIVINE FORGIVENESS**  
**From** the **New Life** of **Jesus** Christ **Living inside** of us

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**God** calls us to **Forgive**  
**IN THE SAME WAY** as He has **Forgiven us** . . .

**Col 3:13** says . . . ***AS*** (just as) ***the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.***

& we **Forgive** **“JUST AS”** the **Lord** has **Forgiven** us  
Because it’s **THE LORD Doing** the **Forgiving - Inside Us**

This is **NOT Something WE** do  
It’s **Something** Jesus Christ **DOES - IN US - & THRU US**

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We've GOT to GIVE UP – Our RIGHT  
to hold ON to the Cancer of Un-Forgiveness in our hearts

We've GOT to GIVE OVER to God  
The Things we Can't FIX  
& The Things we Can't CONTROL

& We've GOT to Replace those things with HIS MERCY  
Leading to Divine Forgiveness

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& Let me say 1 More Time  
I KNOW this is NOT always EASY  
I KNOW this is NOT always IMMEDIATE

But I know how BIG, & How MERCIFUL – Our GOD IS !!

& I KNOW – If you BELONG to Jesus Christ today

That HE is TRANSFORMING you – From GLORY to GLORY  
INTO – His OWN IMAGE . . .

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)

*18 . . . And the Lord - who is the Spirit - makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.*

Would you PRAY – that the Lord will Transform you in THIS Area  
& would you Trust him to DO IT

& would you Continue to CRY OUT to Him  
To GIVE YOU - Divine Forgiveness . . .

**For that PERSON – & For that SITUATION in your Life  
UNTIL You have been Transformed into HIS IMAGE**

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**God wants to FREE YOU - from the BONDAGE  
& DESTRUCTION of your Unforgiveness**

He wants to RENEW, & RESTORE, & TRANSFORM You

& Give you the GIFT – of Divine Forgiveness

**Let's Pray**