

Bait10 – **Forgiveness Required – Matthew 18:21-35**

In the Bible - **MERCY is Compassion In Action
toward someone who DOES NOT deserve it**

In the **most sacrificial way** possible
GOD acted in **Eternal Compassion** toward **US**

When we did not, could not, and never would
DESERVE his MERCY

**MERCY is Compassion In Action
toward someone who DOES NOT deserve it**

& it is **God's FREE GIFT** of **MERCY** – That **LEADS US**
to **Freely Giving - Total Divine Forgiveness**

**Divine Forgiveness - Is Not something
We Can Produce in OUR Own Nature**

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

Let's Pray

**We have done SO MUCH teaching on Divine Forgiveness
(because it has been a big part of my life & testimony)**

At **WordByMail.com** you can search the word **"Forgiveness"**
and **get** a **hold** of a **bunch of msgs**

But the one I would suggest – to GO WITH This Msg
is called - 5 and 5 For Divine Forgiveness

It's Msg #12 in our series on Joseph
& it would be great to LISTEN TO or READ - *along with this msg*

HOW Important is it – that we Live in this Divine Mercy
that LEADS to Divine Forgiveness?

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.

& what about the 2 vs's that FOLLOW - The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:14–15 (NLT)

14 “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

WHAATTT ?????

I know – you want to Know Exactly what THAT MEANS

BUT – for today – Can you just take a deep breath & say
Ohhh – that's definitely NOT GOOD

& We'll SEE today – that God calls us to Divine Forgiveness
FOR OUR OWN GOOD

In order 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 GIVING YOU - **HIS OWN Divine Forgiveness** –

Because Hardened Unforgiveness

bring **BONDAGE & DESTRUCTION** - into a **Christian's Life**

But **God** has **Given** you his **UNFAILING MERCY**
to **FREE YOU** from the **TORTURE** of **Unforgiveness**

& **I KNOW** - **SOME** have had **Very Serious**
& **Very Traumatic** events in their **lives**

& I am **NOT saying** – that **God's Divine Forgiveness**
is **EASY** – or **INSTANTANEOUS**

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

& so - I'd like you (right now) - to ask God - to SHOW you

THAT PERSON – that you are Holding **UNFORGIVENESS toward**

Or THAT SITUATION – where you need to experience
God's Divine Forgiveness

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

Today - We will SEE - 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

There is SO MUCH MORE – that we have taught on In this area of Divine Forgiveness

But for today - & for this Parable
These 3 Supernatural Steps are enough

In Mat 18 - just After the section on how to Correctly RECONCILE & RESTORE a Believer

We pick it up in Matthew 18:21 (NLT)

21 Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

That sounds reasonable – 7 Times? - Good Job Peter

& - Once again – PETER gets CORRECTED by Jesus

In Matthew 18:22 (NLT)

22 “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!

Some translations have **77 times** here

But – **whether 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**

Again – these are **the 3-Steps** to **Divine Forgiveness** we **see** here

1) We Receive God’s Mercy

2) We Make the Comparison

3) We Give Out God’s Mercy

Matthew 18:23–24 (NLT)

23 “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him.

24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.

First – let's set the stage correctly

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

& **here** - The **SERVANT** with the **Debt** – is **YOU**

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

the kingdom of heaven can be compared - to THIS situation

& in **V.24** - **YOU owe GOD** – a **DEBT** - of **MILLIONS of Dollars**

The **Literal** here is **10,000 TALENTS**

10,000 Talents is **375 TONS** of **Silver**

At **today's Silver price** – that is **\$276,000,000**

YOU owed the **KING of Heaven**

an **Absolutely, Unimaginable & Unrepayable DEBT**

Our SIN – **was** a **DEBT** – that we **Owed to God** –

& it was an **Absolutely Unrepayable DEBT**

You could **NEVER repay the DEBT** of your **Sin** toward **God**

& So – COL 2:14 says

God CANCELLED the **Record** of **your Debt**

By **NAILING IT** to the **Cross** – **Under the BLOOD of Jesus**

& so cont'g in Matthew 18:25 (NLT) → →

Matthew 18:25 (NLT)

25 He (that's you) couldn't pay (the debt), so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

This was the Normal & Customary response at the time

**In fact - This was the Correct & "Righteous" Response
When a Debt this BIG 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 (NLT)

26 "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.'

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 (NLT)

27 Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

The Master – The KING of Heaven – Had PITY on YOU
& RELEASED You – And FORGAVE your DEBT

& THIS IS STEP #1 – WE MUST RECEIVE GOD’S MERCY

We must TRULY EMBRACE – HOW MUCH Mercy & Grace
WE have Received from GOD

RESULTING in us being FORGIVEN
& RELEASED from our Debt of SIN

If YOU have received God’s Free Gift of Salvation in Jesus Christ
THIS is What God has Done for YOU

God has Completely RELEASED You,
& Completely FORGIVEN - the Unrepayable Debt you owed him

1st – We must FULLY RECEIVE that FREE GIFT
Of God’s Mercy & Forgiveness of our DEBT of SIN

THEN – The Parable moves on - to YOU & YOUR Dealings
with the person who has OFFENDED you

STEP #2 – WE MUST MAKE THE COMPARISON

Matthew 18:28(a) (NLT)

28 “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars . . .

So - You WENT OUT and FOUND one of your fellow servants

& that person owes you a few thousand dollars
Compared to the MILLIONS you have just been forgiven of

THIS is The Comparison

You've been forgiven of a Completely Unrepayable Debt

& Yet - you are hunting down someone who owes you
a Much SMALLER Debt by comparison

& then – in the 2nd 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 (NLT)

28 "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

THAT doesn't seem right, does it?

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

As <u>Freely Forgiven</u> Christians – <u>How are we doing</u> at <u>Freely Forgiving</u> those who have <u>OFFENDED</u> us?

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

Even if it's just a Prison "in our own Minds"

As we refuse to Forgive Them for their OFFENSE toward us

So – in our Parable:

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

& THEN - THEY Say to YOU

Exactly what YOU Just Said to GOD

Matthew 18:29–30 (NLT)

29 “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded.

30 But his creditor (you) wouldn’t wait. He (you) had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

**YOUR Servant asked YOU - for the same Mercy
that YOU have received from GOD**

But – Even tho YOU have been Forgiven SO MUCH

You show NO Mercy

to the one who Owes you MUCH LESS than YOU OWE GOD

& then YOU throw Your fellow servant into Prison

until he (or she) PAYS FOR What they have Done to you

**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 the PRISON of our Minds
& we TRY to make them PAY

But – WHAT HAPPENS IS
WE are the ones - who end up - IN SHACKLES

& 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 God on this whole thing

Matthew 18:31 (NLT)

31 “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king (God) and told him everything that had happened.

Can you see the Angels – In DISBELIEF – Going to God - & 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 Offended them

*& they choked them out & threw them in Prison
to MAKE THEM PAY*

& so – in Vs's 32-33

We SEE HOW God Responds to this Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:32–33 (NLT)

32 Then the king (God) called in the man he had forgiven (you) and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me.

33 Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’

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

The Words - JUST AS Mean

In the same way, or to the same extent

Shouldn’t you have 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**

**BUT – What if I told you that Showing MERCY,
& Giving DIVINE FORGIVENESS in your life**

Is 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?

**So - Back to The Servant (You) - who would NOT Forgive
IN the SAME WAY - AS He had Been Forgiven**

We read in - Matthew 18:34 (NLT)

**34 Then the angry king (God) sent the man (you) 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 seems a little MUCH doesn't it?

Is God saying – THAT will happen to me, -

If I refuse to Forgive those who have Wronged Me?

All we can do is read the Next Vs

(the answer is ALWAYS in the Next Vs)

Matthew 18:35 (NLT)

35 “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.” [REPEAT]

Seriously Lord? You would Allow THAT to happen to ME?

**Are you saying I will be TORTURED – If I refuse to Forgive
IN THE SAME WAY - as you have forgiven me?**

**Please hear me – Hardened Unforgiveness
becomes - MENTAL & EMOTIONAL TORTURE in your Life**

**Hardened Unforgiveness ALWAYS ends up –
Imprisoning Us – AND Torturing Us**

& UN-Forgiveness – Can become a Ruthless Torturer!!

**BUT – What God CALLS US TO
God PROVIDES FOR US**

**God KNOWS - we could NEVER accomplish
ANY of this - on our Own**

<p><u>BUT</u> - <u>By</u> the <u>Life of Jesus</u> - <u>Taking over OUR Life</u> <u>The LIFE</u> of Jesus <u>BECOMES</u> <u>Divine Forgiveness</u> – <u>IN US</u></p>
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This is Not something we can Work Up on our own

This is Something we SURRENDER to the Lord

& AS we SURRENDER - Divine Forgiveness becomes

a FRUIT of the Holy Spirit Living in us
& Miraculously Transforming Us

Jesus has given us HIS DIVINE POWER -
in The Person of the Holy Spirit

For us to be FREED from the Torture of Unforgiveness

OUR Part is to Continually CHOOSE To WALK
in the New Life that Jesus Christ has given you

& 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 OUT 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 OUT - DIVINE FORGIVENESS – Flowing From
the New Life of Jesus Christ Living inside of us

Again - This is **NOT Something WE** do **Ourselves**
It's **Something Jesus** Christ **DOES** - **IN US**

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 **GOD'S Supernatural MERCY**
Which **Leads** to **Divine Forgiveness**

I KNOW this is **NOT EASY**
& **I KNOW** this is **NOT IMMEDIATE**
But I KNOW how **BIG**, & How **MERCIFUL** – **Our GOD IS !!**

WOULD YOU PRAY with me **right now**
that the **Lord** would **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 – **Or that SITUATION** in your **Life**

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

He wants to **RENEW**, & **RESTORE**, & **TRANSFORM** You

& **By** the **POWER** of **The Holy Spirit**

God wants to **Give you the GIFT**
of **Divine Forgiveness**

Let's Pray