

THE WORLDS WORST PRISON

(Matthew 18:21-35)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The crisis of those that choose not to forgive and how it is used to cripple the church:
- B. The importance that communion has in relations to forgiveness:

II. THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT: (vv. 21-35)

- A. Peter's question of forgiveness: (vv. 21-22)
 - 1. The standard of the rabbinic law:
 - 2. No limit on the grace shown through forgiveness:
- B. A debt one could never pay: (vv. 23-27)
 - 1. The debt load equated to 10,000 talents:
 - 2. The king wipes out the ledger clean:
- C. The short memory of forgiveness: (vv. 28-30)
 - 1. Confrontation over a petty debt:
 - 2. The overwhelming mercy shown to him and yet he demanded justice for himself:
 - 3. Withholding forgiveness shows us that we misunderstood God's forgiveness:
- D. Unforgiveness leads to torment: (vv. 31-35)
 - 1. The anger of the King towards the unmerciful servant:
 - 2. The jailers torment towards the servant:
 - 3. Jesus gets to the heart of the matter on forgiveness:

III. APPLICATIONS:

- A. Unforgiveness acts as a self-made spiritual prison that blocks us from enjoying the assurance of God's grace.
- B. Being a Christian means forgiving the inexcusable because God forgave the inexcusable in you.
- C. In taking communion today are you in a place where you have forgiven those who have wronged you in the body of Christ.