

## Heroes of the Faith



Martin Luther


William
Wilberforce


Corrie ten Boom

## Mathew 18:21

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?"

## Matthew 18:22

Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

## Matthew 18:23-25

Therefore, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.

## The Servant's Debt: 10,000 Talents

1 talent = 6,000 drachmas
Average annual laborer = 300 drachmas
Total debt $=60$ million drachmas; roughly $\$ 6$ billion today.

- Total work time $=200,000$ years


## Gospel Truth \#1

We have all amassed a colossal debt before God with our sins; a debt that we are unable to pay back.

## Matthew 18:26

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

## Matthew 18:27

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

## Matthew 18:27

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

## Gospel Truth \#2

The mercy \& forgiveness that God offers sinners through the gospel, is not rooted in our worthiness, but in the lovingkindness of God.

## Matthew 18:28-30

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.' So, his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

## Fellow Servant's Debt: 100 Denarii

100 denarii = \$12,000
Approximately 3-4 months salary

- \$6,000,000,000 > \$12,000


## Matthew 18:31-35

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

## Matthew 18:31-35

And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

We take God's forgiveness for granted [when] we stubbornly withhold our
forgiveness from others. In effect, we behave as though other's sins against us are more serious than our sins against God.

## "Unforgiveness is a poison that we drink, hoping that others will die."

## ~ Various Authors

Corrie ten Boom


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Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and ... beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (Colossians 3:12-14 ESV)

## Conclusion

Who do you need to forgive?

