

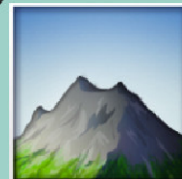
# The Heart of Forgiveness

Matthew 6:14-15 and 18:23-35

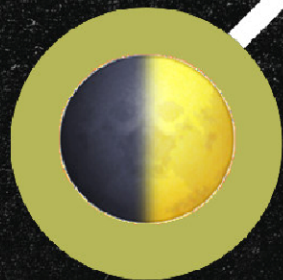
1. The slave's situation.
  - a. He was in \_\_\_\_\_ debt.
  - b. He had no \_\_\_\_\_ to repay what he owed.
2. The king's kindness.
  - a. He was moved with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. He forgave \_\_\_\_\_ the debt.
3. The slave's selfishness.
  - a. He was owed a \_\_\_\_\_ debt.
  - b. He \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive.
4. The king's response.
  - a. He judges the slave as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. He condemns the \_\_\_\_\_ slave.

**A persistent \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
\_\_\_\_\_ truths of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

BE DIFFERENT  
LIVE DIFFERENT



ID



A close-up photograph of a crown of thorns, a symbol of suffering and sacrifice. The thorns are dark brown and sharp, resting on a weathered wooden surface. A single, dark, round stone is placed on the wood near the crown. The background is a textured, light-colored fabric.

# **The Heart of Forgiveness**

**Matthew 6:9-13  
and 18:23-35**

## **Matthew 6:14-15**

For if you forgive men for their transgressions,  
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

But if you do not forgive men,  
your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

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But **if you do not forgive** men,  
**your Father will not forgive** your transgressions.

Jesus' parable in Matthew  
18:23-35 clarifies what Jesus  
meant in this sermon.



# **The slave's situation**



The slave was in  
unbelievable debt.

**Matthew 18:23-24**

For this reason the kingdom of heaven  
may be compared to a certain king  
who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.  
When he had begun to settle them,  
there was brought to him one  
who owed him ten thousand talents.

## Matthew 18:23-24

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who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

When he had begun to settle them,  
there was brought to him one

who **owed** him **ten thousand talents.**

One talent = ~75lbs

One ounce of gold = \$1,300

One talent of gold = \$1,560,000

Ten thousand talents of gold =

**\$15,600,000,000**

**How much do you  
think you owe God?**

The slave was in unbelievable debt.

**The slave had no means  
to repay what he owed.**

**Matthew 18:25**

But since he did not have the means to repay,  
his lord commanded him to be sold,  
along with his wife and children and all that  
he had, and repayment to be made.



## Matthew 18:25

But since **he did not have the means to repay,**

his lord commanded him to be sold,  
along with his wife and children and all that  
he had, and repayment to be made.

**Do you see that you  
have no ability to repay  
your debt to God?**

A crown of thorns, a symbol of suffering and sacrifice, is the central focus of the image. It is made of several dry, brown, thorny branches. A dark, round, textured object, possibly a stone or a piece of wood, rests on the crown. The background is a light-colored, textured fabric, possibly a cloth or a piece of paper. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

# The king's kindness

The king was moved  
with compassion.

**Matthew 18:26-27**

So the slave fell to the ground,  
and prostrated himself before him, saying,  
“Have patience with me,  
and I will repay you everything.”

And the lord of that slave felt compassion  
and released him and forgave him the debt.

## **Matthew 18:26-27**

So the slave fell to the ground,  
and prostrated himself before him, saying,  
“Have patience with me,  
and I will repay you everything.”

And **the lord** of that slave **felt compassion**  
and released him and forgave him the debt.

**Exodus 34:6-7**

The LORD, the LORD God,  
compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,  
and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;  
who keeps lovingkindness for thousands,  
who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin;  
yet He will by no means leave  
the guilty unpunished...

The king was moved with compassion.

The king forgave  
all of the debt.



**Matthew 18:26-27**

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and prostrated himself before him, saying,  
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and I will repay you everything.”

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## **Matthew 18:26-27**

So the slave fell to the ground,  
and prostrated himself before him, saying,  
“Have patience with me,  
and I will repay you everything.”

And **the lord** of that slave felt compassion  
and released him and **forgave him the debt.**

**Do you see the  
unbelievable mercy your  
King has shown you?**

A crown of thorns, a symbol of suffering and sacrifice, is the central focus of the image. It is made of several dry, brown, thorny branches. One branch in the foreground is particularly sharp and prominent. The crown is placed on a light-colored, textured fabric, possibly a cloth or a piece of clothing. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light beige color. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

# **The slave's selfishness**

The slave was owed a significant debt.

**Matthew 18:28**

But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, “Pay back what you owe.”

## Matthew 18:28

But that slave went out and found one of his

fellow slaves **who owed him a hundred denarii;**

and he seized him and began to choke him,  
saying, "Pay back what you owe."

According to Matthew 20:2,  
one denarius was the going wage  
for a full day's labor.

That means that 100 denarii would  
be about 4 months' wages.

or **\$18,600**



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But that slave went out and found one of his  
fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii;

and **he seized him and began to choke him,**  
saying, “Pay back what you owe.”

The slave was owed a significant debt.

**The slave refused  
to forgive.**

**Matthew 18:29-30**

So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, “Have patience with me and I will repay you.” But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

## Matthew 18:29-30

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and began to plead with him, saying,  
“Have patience with me and I will repay you.”

But **he was unwilling** and went and threw him in  
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## Matthew 18:29-30

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and began to plead with him, saying,  
“Have patience with me and I will repay you.”

But **he** was unwilling and **went and threw him in  
prison** until he should pay back what was owed.

A close-up photograph of a crown of thorns, a symbol of suffering and sacrifice. The thorns are made of dry, brown, woody branches with sharp, pointed thorns. A single, dark, round nail is visible, embedded in one of the branches. The crown of thorns is resting on a light-colored, textured wooden surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown color.

# **The king's response**

He judges the slave as wicked.



### **Matthew 18:31-33**

So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

Then summoning him, his lord said to him,  
“You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?”

## **Matthew 18:31-33**

So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

Then summoning him, his lord said to him,

**“You wicked slave**, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?”

**Do you see that  
unwillingness to forgive  
is wickedness.**

**Psalm 1:5**

Therefore the wicked will not stand  
in the judgment,  
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

He judges the slave as wicked.

**He condemns the  
unforgiving slave.**

**Matthew 18:31-34**

And his lord, moved with anger,  
handed him over to the torturers  
until he should repay all that was owed him.

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And his lord, moved with anger,

**handed him over to the torturers**


until he should repay all that was owed him.



## Matthew 18:31-34

And his lord, moved with anger,  
handed him over to the torturers

**until he should repay all** that was owed him.



**How does this apply  
to you and me?**

**Matthew 18:35**

So shall My heavenly Father also do to you,  
if each of you does not forgive his brother  
from your heart.

**Matthew 6:14-15**

For if you forgive men for their transgressions,  
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.  
But if you do not forgive men,  
your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

**A persistent unwillingness  
to forgive demonstrates  
disbelief in the essential  
truths of the gospel.**

**Where is your heart  
before the Lord?**