

Disciplined Disciples

Northwest Church of Christ: Young Adults

Winter Quarter: 2014-2015

Topic: Showing Mercy



Mercy. What comes to your mind when you think of this word? Mercy and Grace are words that are full of comfort. We long to have them extended to us. Are we good at extending it to others? Do we really have a good understanding of what has been extended to us? We will be studying Matthew 18: 21-35. This text is a tremendous study for this topic.

Intro- In order to understand this parable, we need to understand the values that are being spoken about.

A. Ten thousand talents

- An unimaginable total
- 10X the total annual tax of Judea, Galilee, Samaria, Perea, and Idumea
- 200,000 years of wages
- According to American averages, \$10.2 billion
- Jesus was not just trying to show them the debt was "big"
- His point was that the size of the debt was beyond their ability to imagine

B. 100 Denarii

- One denarius = 17 cents
- \$17 debt

1. An Impossible Debt...

- a. It is hard for us to wrap our mind around that kind of debt.
- b. We might be quick to dismiss this debt as being inconceivable... We would do well to remember that we are that debtor.

c. Even if you did everything you could:

No matter how:

- Righteously you live your life

Important Scriptures

- **Matthew 18:21-35**
- **Proverbs 19:11-** Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.
- **Colossians 2:13-14-** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
- **Matthew 6:14-** For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,
- **Matthew 5:7-** "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

- How accurately you interpret and obey the Word
- Much good you do
- Often you can be found in a church building

d. There is nothing you can do to make even the slightest bit of progress on the debt with which you stand before God

2. An Impossible Mercy...

- a. As great as that debt is... God's mercy is bigger
- b. We have been forgiven of the 10,000 talents
- c. We get the credit for none of it

3. An Impossible Pettiness...

- a. When we read this account we hate this servants actions... then we realize, that we are that servant.
- b. What are your actions toward others based on? If we base our actions on what others deserve from us:
 - i. We will not forgive
 - ii. We will have poor attitudes
 - iii. We will seek revenge
 - iv. We will hold their faults over their head.
- c. This passage reminds us that if we treat others, based on what they deserve from us, we are nothing like Jesus.
- d. Who are you withholding mercy from? Someone who lied to you, slandered you, stole from you, said something offensive to a family member...
- e. Mercy by it's definition is withholding from individuals what they deserve.
- f. Acts 2 Peter was preaching to the individuals that murdered Christ.
- g. Matthew 18: 35-"If you do not forgive."



Discussing the Word

1. Do you find extending mercy to others difficult?
2. Why do you believe it is so hard to let an offense go?
3. How does understanding your sin affect the way you forgive others?
4. Is there anyone that you are currently withholding forgiveness from?

