

Kingdom of God Part 9

Steve Berger May 29, 2016

The Kingdom of God is...

- 1) kingdom is rule and reign of God, 2) future heavenly realm, 3) present heavenly “taste,” 4) parables tell us what Kingdom is like now, how it functions, how we are to operate as citizens of the Kingdom

Last Week — *Matthew 18:15-20* tells us to go alone and gain a brother; if not, take one or two witnesses; if not, tell it to the church; if not, let them be as a heathen and tax collector; not unforgiveness, just no fellowship and communion

Method of forgiving people who sin against us

• Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

- God is serious about settling accounts with man, and man settling accounts with one another. Therefore we are given the method and motive in settling accounts
- The man owed a debt he couldn’t pay- 10,000 talents, a truly unpayable debt
 - *“I owed a debt I could not pay, He paid a debt He did not owe.” (Ellis J. Crum)*
- God's justice demands that payment be made for man's sins. Who is paying for yours?
 - Many think they can pay their own debt by being “good”

• Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

- two times justified by Jesus; three times not justified by works, good deeds.
- God responds mercifully, compassionately, with total forgiveness, to those who ask
 - **1 John 1:8-10**
If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
- The forgiven, who don't forgive others, find themselves at the end of God's anger and punishment
 - “turned over to the torturers, so my heavenly Father will do to each of you if you don't forgive one another from your hearts.”

Question — *Why wouldn't the first man, who was forgiven a debt he could never pay, forgive the man who only owed him hundreds?*

Answer — *He underestimated the totality of his debt, and he overestimated his ability to repay it.*

- PRIDE. PRIDE. PRIDE!

Therefore — *He didn't really appreciate forgiveness — so he wasn't quick to give it!*

**Point of the whole Kingdom parable —
forgive as you've been forgiven,
not underestimating the totality of your debt,
and not overestimating your ability to pay it**

- **Matthew 16:12, 14-15**
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- **Ephesians 4:30-32**
And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
- **Colossians 3:12-13**
Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

Motive to forgive others

Motive to forgive others — *you've been forgiven much more by Jesus! Draw from that deep well and forgive someone else!*

Unforgiveness of others... SOBERING — puts you in prison-like torment... not them... what is torment? *Spiritual, mental, emotional, physical health...*

“Bitterness is a nasty solvent that erodes every good thing, the data that negative mental states cause heart problems is just stupendous. The data is just as established as smoking, and the size of the effect is the same.”¹ Dr. Charles Raison associate professor of psychiatry at Emory University School of Medicine

**Forgiveness doesn't minimize someone's sin,
it just keep you from prison-like torture...
forgiveness is one of the most gloriously selfish things you can do**

This issue of settling accounts is very important in the Kingdom

- **someone sins against you-** go to them, give opportunity to repent, gain your brother/sister.
- **you sinned against someone-** go to them, make it right

- **Matthew 5:23-24**

Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

So important... reconciliation is so important to Jesus that He puts the responsibility on both parties to try to work it out!

Question — Has someone sinned against you and you're not going to them, informing them, giving an opportunity for reconciliation? Do you have unforgiveness? Forgive, regardless of how they respond, keep yourself out of prison.

Question — Do you know you've sinned against someone, but pride, fear, embarrassment is keeping you from going to them? You're hoping it will all just pass? No, go ask for forgiveness, that's what makes it right.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is God serious about man settling accounts with one another?
2. Read 1 John 1: 8-10. What kind of sins is John talking about here? Only “serious” ones?
3. Why wouldn't the first man, who was forgiven a debt he could never pay, forgive the man who only owed him hundreds?
4. Have you ever personally felt the erosive solvent of bitterness? What did it do to you?
5. Have you ever personally experienced the “gloriously selfish” act of forgiveness? How did it affect you?

¹ Elizabeth Cohen, *Blaming others can ruin your health*, (www.cnn.com/2011/HEALTH/08/17/bitter.resentful.ep/)