

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Seventy Times Seven

Matthew 18:15-35

Skip intro for time?

Recap:

- Death, taxes & resurrection (gospel cornerstone)
- How to enter heaven? Be as the little child
- How to receive extreme punishment? Cause believing children to sin
- Lost sheep. Leaving the 99.

This time:

- **Forgiveness or unforgiveness, which do we choose?**
- Correct order for communication
- Church discipline
- A math question
- A parable

How are your math skills?

What's the last thing you remember?

Calculus in the morning vs. calculus in the afternoon

Did it ever have any function in the real world for you?

Shopping, investing, programming, running a business

Part of the benefit of doing higher math is that it solidifies the lower stuff

I used to know the quadratic equation, but now at least my multiplication is solid

How does this have anything to do with following Jesus?

I don't know, but maybe we'll learn something from Him this morning

[Pray]

18:15-17

Moreover

Bible study: When we see therefore, we ask what is it there for?

When we see more over, we ask what is it building on?

Cutting off a limb instead of sinning (offsenses), lost sheep - now a sinning brother?

If we'd go get a lost sheep

If God wants to reach believers who have strayed

How much so a brother?

Well, who is my brother?

Luke 10:25-37 NKJV - And behold, a certain **lawyer** stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading [of it]?" So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." **But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"** Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain [man] went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded [him], and departed, leaving [him] half dead. "Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. "Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. "So he went to [him] and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. "On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave [them] to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' "So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Word means ... brother

- Those of the same nation
- Any fellow man
- **Brother in Christ**

"Hello brother!" we say

"My sister"

"Treat each other as brothers and sisters in Christ"

Blood family relationships can be the hardest

Proverbs 18:19 NKJV - A brother offended [is harder to win] than a strong city, And contentions [are] like the bars of a castle.

When we're close in type, in proximity, it can be easy to offend

Easy to bump each other

It's easier when we're not so close to remain friendly

The cost isn't as high

And for family, we have no choice.

This person is always our relative, we can't change that. Remove that bond.
Even if we have to separate from interaction.

Friends we choose.

Real friends stay close. No matter the distance. Why? They forgive.

Proverbs 18:24 NKJV - A man [who has] friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend [who] sticks closer than a brother.

There's a difference between forgiveness and acceptance

I can forgive someone's behavior, but I don't have to accept it continuing
I can forgive someone, even if they don't repent
But if they don't repent, change course, I don't have to keep going with them
And if trust is broken, I don't have to let them close again either

Nobody has a right to hurt you

Or get close to you

Or be in your inner circle

Unless you really want them there, and understand the cost

Ministering relationships

But Jesus says "brother" here and "church" as well.

This really means your believing brother (or sister)

That out of all people, forgiving your fellow believer
IN THE FAMILY OF GOD
Is of utmost importance

John 13:35 NKJV - "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The biggest thing the church has over the world is?

The Bible. Sure.

Jesus. Sure.

But what's most evident, what separates the sheep from the goats...

Is forgiveness.

So, how does Jesus say we go about this forgiveness thing with other believers?

First off - did they sin against you, or did you just not like what they said or did?
There is a difference

Being offended doesn't mean you were wronged.

There is a right way and wrong way to say something.
A good way and a better way.

And if you were wronged? How much does it mean to you?

Confrontational

Do we need to correct every little wrong?
Or can we be bigger than that, more gracious than that?

Matthew 7:1-5 NKJV - "Judge not, that you be not judged. "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank [is] in your own eye? "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."
(suggest: go listen to the message on this)

**OK, so you were sinned against.
And it's big enough to warrant dealing with it.
You can't continue the relationship with the elephant in the room.**

#1 Go alone

- Private conversation
- Not a tweet
- Don't go gossip first or ask advice first
- Deal with it with...your brother.

Why? You love them. You value the relationship. You want to honor God. You want to give this relationship the best possible chance at healing - by not doing something more.

Maybe they didn't realize? Maybe they had a bad day? Maybe they are in need of a talk.

Many times God will confront us in our own sin time and time again, trying to get us to deal with it. But we stop listening to him and continue on...and then he'll use someone else to bring it up

So they hear you! They acknowledge it. They apologize. They mean it.

Not sorry they were caught. Sorry they broke the relationship with their behavior.

They are bothered they hurt you (knowingly or not)
And want it solved.
Great, everybody wins.

You have “gained” your brother. A relationship lost is no longer lost.

But...#2

The conversation didn't go well.
They didn't acknowledge what they did was sin (and it was a big deal).
The relationship is not mended and you desire it to be mended as it was before.

(This is all leading up to talking about marriage and divorce next chapter too...)

Bring one or two more believers

Maybe they're mutual friends. They know you both. Your behaviors.
But if not, at least solid believers. Not just people in your court.
Don't stack the deck.

1 Corinthians 6:1-8 NKJV - Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? **I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?** But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! **Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather [let yourselves] be cheated? No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and [you do] these things [to your] brethren!**

Pastor Chuck's assistant pastor, when someone else would begin to gossip or be mad about chuck or someone else, he'd stop them mid-sentence and take them right away to go talk to them.

**Having others there will help determine he said she said
Three sides to any story - your side, their side, the truth**

But maybe this will show the severity of the issue to your brother
Open their eyes to their sin and the need for reconciliation

Jesus quotes the law in Deuteronomy 19:15

Still doesn't hear? Still no reconciliation?

#3 Tell it to the church

Wait wait wait...the church didn't exist yet!
 Pentecost hadn't happened

Ah, but it had in a way. Who do you think Jesus' disciples were, without even realizing it?
Called out from among the Jews (and gentiles) to follow Jesus

- A gathering out of their homes into public spaces to assembly
- A gathering of Christians for worship and religious meeting
- Whole body of Christians worldwide
- Christians in heaven

Tell it to the church

- Is it someone in the local church with you? Bring them to your church.
- Do they go somewhere else? Go talk to their leadership.
- Are they leadership? Tell it to their leadership.
- If they have no leadership, tell it to those who are in their ministry

But be careful

1 Timothy 5:19-20 NKJV - Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

Still don't hear? Still don't repent?

Still resist every believer with influence and care in their lives?

#4 Treat them as a heathen and tax collector

An unbeliever!

Or worse, a traitor to your people (stole from the people to pay Roman taxes)

I wonder if Matthew winced a little bit at this...being a former tax collector

Why? Because they're certainly acting like it.

They're not bearing fruits worthy of repentance.

They're not submitting to the Spirit, the Word, the Church,

and the calls for forgiveness, loving one another

Remember, this isn't about proving who was right and who was wrong

It is about saving the relationship

With each other and our own relationships with God.

1 John 4:20-21 NKJV - If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God [must] love his brother also.

:18-20

Oh boy, time to get controversial again...

Here's another verse used out of context

Yes, when we agree together, it's good

Why? Because it shows we're in more than agreement with each other

We're in agreement *with* God

God's not on our side as much as we want to be on His side

Remember, context is important. OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

We cannot just take scripture out of context.

Cherry pick a verse to make it mean what we want it to mean

To fit our theology.

We must look at the passage before, passage after

It may have other contexts, but how is it used right there and in the entire pattern of scripture?

This is about confrontations about sin

Unforgiveness. Hardness of heart.

This is about church discipline.

Someone sinning and unwilling to deal with it, despite the efforts of God and His church family in their lives.

Paul to Corinth - sinning brother, exalting in their "tolerance"

Who's in charge? Not us. Not our opinion. But the Father in Heaven.

He's the one who calls the shots. Makes the judgment call. He's the one we appeal to to heal our relationships.

Jesus is really evident when we come together, humbly, on the important issues. Especially around forgiveness and dealing with spiritual health.

:21-22

Peter steps forward again in front of the class...gotta give it to his boldness

OK, well how many times do I forgive?

- Up until dealing with it?
- After dealing with it?
- (thinking maybe my forgiveness is based on his repentance)

Numbers in the bible - 7 being number of completion

Seven is a lot!

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.

Sin against me seven times.

Probably long past a valid time to question the relationship.

Again, marriage and divorce in a few weeks...I think we'd all agree you need more than 7 in a marriage. At least I need the forgiveness!

Jesus answers not 7...70 x 7 (470)

70 completion of judgment - 70 years of Babylonian exile

70 members of Jacob's family went down to Egypt

Man's estimation of good vs. God's are very different

Man's extension of forgiveness, man's patience is impossibly short vs. God's

Psalm 147:10-11 NKJV - He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.

Does this mean that when we reach 470 times we stop forgiving?

- Sure, there is a time when a relationship must end, at least outwardly
- But we should always love each other inwardly

Because no, I don't think Jesus wants us to keep a record.

I think he wants us to lose count.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NKJV - Love suffers long [and] is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked,

thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether [there are] prophecies, they will fail; whether [there are] tongues, they will cease; whether [there is] knowledge, it will vanish away.

:23

Parables - earthly stories with heavenly meanings

King, has servants. Has given the servants money to invest, use for the kingdom, etc.
Time to bring in the money and any returns

:24-25

Talent

- Heaviest Hebrew weight
- Israeli talent of silver was 100 pounds
- Gold weight 200 pounds
- Used in weight on scale

1 talent = 16 years average wage

10,000 talents = 160,000 years wage

Think about the wealth of some people

***This is not a debt you or I or this slave could ever, ever repay
26x history***

There is a lot here to consider. It is weighty when we consider this is talking about our lives, our responsibility, our sin and God's forgiveness...

So how to pay back? Him, his wife, his kids sold to be slaves for someone else.

Were they worth - 500-6000 denarii

Each was worth at most, about half a talent

So maybe the king gains 5 talents out of 10,000 back

:26-27

Begged earnestly. Maybe his family would be separated.

King vs. master. Did the master go before the king? Was the king the master?

Jesus forgiving us our debt and making the case with our heavenly father

:28-31

Servant turns around and has a fellow servant thrown in jail for 100 days wages debt

Did this servant loan out the 100 days wages to this guy, wasn't even his own money...

And has him imprisoned

Other servants grieved

(two or more...we should be grieved when believers wrong other believers)

:32-34

Master enraged at the insanity and hypocrisy of his actions

Took advantage of the master's kindness

Potentially Shows that he manipulated his master with his begging

He wasn't really sorry, he was just upset about the punishment

Handed over to torturers until the debt would be paid

Would it ever be paid? It would take 160,000 years if he was making money

But here, he's being tortured. He does nothing for the kingdom but serve as witness of what the kingdom really cares about...mercy and compassion.

Micah 6:8 NKJV - He has shown you, O man, what [is] good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

:35

**Jesus makes it clear, the King, the Heavenly Father, will do the same, if we do not forgive
Is it punishment for us being unforgiving?**

Are we under pressure to forgive?

In a way

Is it a work to get our own forgiveness?

the point is not our forgiveness of others, the point is have we truly been forgiven?

Because if we have, if we realize all that God has forgiven us for, forgiving ANOTHER CHRISTIAN for what they've done to us should be easy

Luke 7:47 NKJV - "Therefore I say to you, her sins, which [are] many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, [the same] loves little."