



# “Childlike Faith Childlike Forgiveness”

(a Sermon by)

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“There's nothing we can do!”



“Forgiveness is a beautiful word.....

C.S. Lewis

“Forgiveness is a beautiful word  
until you have something to forgive”

C.S. Lewis

# “Matthews Gospel”



“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Mt. 1:21



“Mt.-Unique in that it presents  
Jesus as King”





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16 x in John's Gospel

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2. Explanation of Results- “In them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled...seeing you will see and not perceive” (Is. 6:9)
3. Blessing in Seeing- “But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear” (Mt. 13:16)

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## 4. Fulfillment of Prophecy- Ps. 78:2-Matt. 13:34,35

34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: " I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world." (Ps. 78:2)

Ps. 78:7 "That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments; 22 Because they did not believe in God and did not trust in His salvation.60 So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent He had placed among men, 68 but chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved. 69 and He built His sanctuary like the heights, like the earth which He has established forever. 70 He also chose David His servant and took him from the sheepfolds;



## The Contextual system- Is this passage a narrative, parable? Matt. 18:21-35

Mt. 18:21 Then Peter approached Him and said, "Lord, how many times shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 In this way the kingdom of heaven is similar to a certain wealthy individual who wanted to do an audit on his steward slaves which he had entrusted with his business affairs. 24 And when he had commenced to compute their accounts, one was brought before him who could not repay ten thousand talents. 25 But as the *slave steward had* nothing from which to pay, his Lord commanded that he be sold into slavery along with his wife and children and all that he had, and that repayment be made from the proceeds of the slave market. 26 The steward slave therefore fell down prostrating himself at the foot of the man, saying, 'Lord, be patient with me, and I will repay you everything' 27 Then the Lord of that steward slave felt great sympathy with compassion, and releasing him, forgave him all that missing debt. 28 "But this very same steward slave then went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a *mere* hundred denarii; and he seized him around the throat, choking him with the words, 'Pay me what you owe!' 29 So his fellow slave fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you back all.' 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison until he should repay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants considered what had been done, they were in great distress and they came and told their Lord all that had occurred. 32 Then his Lord, after he had been recalled to him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow slave, just as I had compassion on you?' 34 And his Lord was enraged, and delivered him to the torturers until he should repay all that was due to him. 35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother their trespasses."

**Mat 18:1** At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

**Mat 18:3** Truly, truly I say unto you, Except you be converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of heaven.



How is it we must all become like children to enter the kingdom?

**a. Like children we must be sincere.**



**b. Like Children, we must be sensitive.**



**c. Like Children we must exercise child-like simple faith.**



**d. Like Children, we must be willing to be humble**



**e. Like Children we need to recognize that a child can received Jesus.**





### 3 Misunderstandings about the subject of forgiveness-

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1. Forgiveness is not forgetting
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3. Forgiveness is our emotional response.

Peter “How often should I forgive....7  
times?”

Jesus “not 7 x, but 70 x 7...infinitely!

A talent was a weight of money equal to six thousand denarii. One talent was the equivalent of 16.4 years of wages, (a denarii was a days wage, 365 denarii in a year) -figured in todays wages of \$25,000 per year (this is minimum or even poverty) then 10,000 talents would be  $10,000 \times 16.4 \text{ years salary} \times 25,000 / \text{yr}$  which is more than 4 Trillion,+ 100 Billion dollars.

The point was that his debt was inconceivable. There is no possible way that he could ever repay it. What ever price you put on this, Jesus is attempting to point out that the debt this servant had was so far beyond anything thing remotely able to be paid back, it was an impossibility to be repaid.

Did you notice that the man did not say “I am sorry” Please forgive me. Confronted by the consequences of his actions he pleads for more time to repay all. The man is still working to try and pay off his debt. A careful reading of verse twenty-six reveals that this man still did not get it. He still was not willing to say that he had done anything wrong.

Verse twenty-seven reveals that it is the character of the master not the character of the servant that produces the release from debt. “Then the master of that servant was compassionate. The master made a decision based on compassion. “Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.”

The master forgave his servant out of compassion for him and his family. We must see ourselves in this if we are going to be helped by this parable of Jesus. We must see that the sum of our offenses against God through the years constitutes this kind of a debt, an absolutely impossible amount. Our rebellions, our selfish acts and thoughts, our willful choices, our lack of love toward one another, and the hurt we have caused others, our pride, our anger, our lusts, our bitterness, our hates, and our lies; all these add up through the years to a staggering debt we owe God and which we cannot pay. Think of the thousands upon thousands of sins you and I have committed against God over the course of our lifetime.

The master forgave his servant out of compassion for him and his family. The second part of the parable describes how the servant given a much lesser debt, refuses to forgive and show compassion. The other servants report what the man has done, and the Lord in the story, calls the man back, asks why he has not followed his masters example, and proceeds to call him wicked, and throws him into jail to be tortured. This is not to teach that we can lose our position as true children of the king...no...if we are a slave or a servant and yet have not a heart of compassion, we have missed the whole lesson of the story...failing to forgive others is one of the tests to demonstrate the reality of our being a 'child of the King'...if we cannot forgive, we do not have the heart of the King!



”Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness --- by whose stripes you were healed.” 1 Pet. 2:24

What is the Key which opens the door?



How do we move from a wicked person to a loving and forgiving person?

Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you **a new heart** and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him,  
"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is  
**born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of  
God."

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must  
be **born again**.'

1 Peter 1:23 having been **born again**, not of  
corruptible seed but incorruptible, through  
the word of God which lives and abides  
forever,

On the night of 22 January 1999, Graham Staines attended a jungle camp in Manoharpur, an annual gathering of Christians situated on the border of the tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts of Odisha . They broke the journey for the camp and decided to spend the night in Manoharpur sleeping in the vehicle because of the severe cold. According to reports, a mob of 50 people armed with axes attacked the vehicle and then set fire to the vehicle. All died in the fire.



"I have forgiven the killers and have no bitterness because forgiveness brings healing and our land needs healing from hatred and violence. Forgiveness and the consequences of the crime should not be mixed up," Ms. Staines said in a statement issued from her Mission House residence in Baripada town of Orissa's Mayurbhanj district.

"God in Christ has forgiven me and expects His followers to do the same. The Bible says: "To whomsoever you forgive their sins will be forgiven". Therefore, in the light of eternity we all need forgiveness of our sins to enter heaven," Ms. Staines said.



Psalms 51:17

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken  
and a contrite heart --- these, O God, You will not  
despise.”

