**Cancelling Debt**

 “Forgiving debt as you have been forgiven”

**Text**: **Matthew 18:21-35**, “**21**Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” **22**Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

**23**“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. **24**When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. **25**And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. **26**So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ **27**And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. **28**But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ **29**So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ **30**He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt…. *Continued through verse 35*. **English Standard Version**

*Because you’ve been forgiven you must*…

**Point #1**: **Never** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.21-22**

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**Point #2**: **Remember** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.23-27**

*Because you’ve been forgiven you must*…

**Point #3**: **Don’t** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.28-31**

*Because you’ve been forgiven you must*…

**Point #4**: **Beware** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.32-35**

**Corollary Verses**: Luke 17:3-4; Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 43:25; Romans 12:19; Exodus 21:14; Romans 2:4; and Matthew 6:14-15.

**Application Questions**
These questions are provided for your further study and application of today’s sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to the questions listed below will assist you in gaining a better understanding of the point of this passage. Please be prepared to discuss your answers with your Home Fellowship Groups.

1. Read **Luke 17:3-4**; **Psalm 103:12**; and **Isaiah 43:25** then answer the following questions. If God is our Father and He desires His children to emulate His character and nature, how should this affect the way that you forgive those who sin against you? Have you ever had a hard time forgiving someone else? How does understanding that forgiveness is a vertical commitment followed by a horizontal transaction change the way you understand forgiveness? This means that you cannot forgive someone who does not ask for it (horizontal transaction), but what can you do?
2. Read **2 Samuel 12:7-14**; **Psalm 51:1-12**; **2 Samuel 16:5-14** then answer the following questions. How aware was David of his sin? Does his prayer in Psalm 51 resonate with you in such a way that you feel that you could author Psalm 51? Explain why and how? How did David’s awareness of his own sin help him in dealing with Shimei sin against David? What can you learn from that?
3. Read **Romans 12:19-21**; **Exodus 21:14**; and **Romans 2:4** then answer the following questions. Clearly vengeance belongs to God alone. In what ways have you sinfully tried to exact vengeance on another believer? How should have you acted towards them instead? What can do in the future to ensure than you leave vengeance to God? What is the difference between civil justice and personal vengeance, who do they belong to, and how do they relate to you?
4. Read **Matthew 6:14-15**; **Mark 11:25**; **Colossians 3:12-13**; and **Matthew 7:21** then answer the following questions. Jesus seems to make our forgiveness that we receive conditional upon our forgiving others. How would you explain the theology of forgiveness to a new believer? How is it possible for us to truly forgive others (*Consider* ***John 15:5***)? What is forgiveness a fruit of? Would you consider it a hallmark or character trait of what?