

“The Great Cost of Forgiveness” 5/23/10

Matthew 18:21-35

Studies in the Parables of the Lord Jesus

Matthew 22:37-40; what are the two Greatest Commandments

Life is full of missed expectations and hurts... even in the church.

POINT 1- The great cost of forgiveness is paid through the compassion of GOD

- A. In order to realize the cost we need to understand the KING
(Psalm 115:3; Isaiah 6:3; Ezek 18:1; Psalm 51:4)
- B. In order to realize the cost we need to understand the coming JUDGMENT
(Matt 12:36; Heb 4:15; Rom 2:16; Revelation 20:12; Romans 3:23; 6:23)
2 Kings 4:1- widow and Elisha... creditor has come to take children
*"For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing,
Whether good or evil."* (Ecclesiastes 12:14)
- C. In order to realize the cost we need to understand the size of our DEBT
- D. In order to realize the cost we need to understand the King's COMPASSION
(Not under any obligation to forgive; the 'setting aside' of wrath; Rom 2:4)

Going Deeper *God wants you to appreciate the extent of His forgiveness to us!*

POINT 2- The cost of forgiveness is paid through the realization of the SAINT

- A. The saint recognizes that there does exist real OFFENSES
(Matt 18:28-30, there is a real legal debt here; what is the moral reply?)
- B. The saint recognizes his own situation demands FORGIVENESS
- C. The saint recognizes the warning in not forgiving from the HEART
(Matt 5:23-25; Luke 17:4; Eph 4:26-27; Mark 11:25-26 "stand praying")

Going Deeper *God wants you to demonstrate forgiveness in like manner as we have received it from Him...no limit!*

"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." (Col 3:13)

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you." (Eph 4:32)

"and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us." (Matt 6:12)