

16th Sunday after Pentecost, 15th Sunday after Trinity – 2023

Saturday, 9/16 at 4:00 | Sunday, 9/17 at 9:00



Text: Gen. 50:19-21; Ps. 103:10-12; Matthew 18:21-35 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends: **Since God is holy and requires us to be holy, SIN is a HUGE problem!** The Bible says, “...[your iniquities](#) [*sins, wrongdoings*] [have made a separation between you and your God](#)” (Isa. 59:2). Since we are helpless to fix the separation, *we desperately need God to forgive us, that is, to make us holy in His sight.*

This sermon includes part of today’s Psalm, OT reading, and Gospel reading – *in that order.*

1. **The Infinite Separation – Psalm 103:** ¹⁰ [\[The LORD\] has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities](#) [*– by our sins we have all earned temporal and eternal punishment – BUT GOD’S LOVE IS GREATER THAN OUR SINS*]. ¹¹ [For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him](#) [*trust and obey Him*]. ¹² [As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.](#) // When traveling **east**, *we will never meet west*,

they are **separated** from each other. When we are **IN CHRIST**, *God makes a **separation** between us and our sins!*

2. **Forgiving Our Enemies – Genesis 50:** ¹⁹ **But Joseph said to [his brothers], “Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place [am I your judge]? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, **but God meant it [used it] for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. ²¹ So therefore, do not be afraid [again, I am not your judge, FURTHERMORE, I am forgiving you as God has forgiven me; therefore]; I will provide for you and your little ones.” So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.** // Joseph’s brothers were going to murder him; instead, they sold him into slavery. Then, with the LORD’s great blessing, *Joseph rose to a position of great power and influence in Egypt.* Joseph could have had his brothers put to death, but, instead, *he forgave them.* Let us think about the fifth petition of the Lord’s Prayer; then let us keep extending ♦free and ♦full forgiveness **to all who sin against us!****
3. **As Forgiven, So Forgive – Matthew 18:** ²¹ **Then Peter came and said to [Jesus], Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” // 490, should that be our limit? Let us be VERY THANKFUL that God has not limited His forgiveness to us!**
- a. **God to Us:** To make an important point about the EXTREME GENEROSITY of God’s forgiveness, Jesus told this parable: ²³ **“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents**

was brought to him. ²⁵ But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ ²⁷ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.”

- i. How much was the debt? A talent is a unit of weight; a talent of gold would be much more valuable than a talent of silver. The value cannot be known, *but 10,000 talents could easily be worth millions of dollars!*
 - ii. The king and the slave: The king is God, and we are the slaves. Our debt to God is **HUGE**; *no person can pay his debt*. For all who seek God’s mercy through Jesus, *God, in His mercy, cancels the debt!*
- b. Us to Others: Since we have received God’s forgiveness, *we should deal with others as God has dealt with us*. But what happened? ²⁸ “...that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began to choke him*, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began to plead with him*, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ ³⁰ But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.
- i. How much was the debt? A denarius was “a Roman silver coin equivalent to a laborer’s

average daily wage” (BW, Friberg). The fellow slave owed 100, so the equivalent of 100 days of work or **thousands of dollars**.

- ii. Slave to slave: Jesus is pointing to the sins that we commit against each other. They can be significant, *like four months of wages*, but they are **SO INSIGNIFICANT** in comparison to the millions of sins we commit against God. Sadly, in the parable, ***the forgiven man*** REFUSED TO FORGIVE!
- c. **Extending Forgiveness Is Critical:** ³¹ “**So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord [the king] all that had happened.** ³² “**Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.** ³³ “**Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’** ³⁴ **And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.** [This is Jesus’ message to us:] ³⁵ **My heavenly Father will also do the same to you** [*not forgive you and punish you forever*], **if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”** // To forgive is not merely to SAY IT, but to sincerely forgive, *hold no grudges, never bring it up again!* **We have such desires through Jesus!**

Let Us Pray: Dear LORD, *TYSM for gifting us with forgiveness through Jesus!* Now, move us to be extremely generous in freely and fully forgiving all who ever sin against us!

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