

# Forgiven Forgivers

## Series: Greatness and Great Relationships

Matthew 18:1- 35

4/14/13

### How to attain to greatness and great relationships

#### 1 Humble ourselves

<sup>18:1</sup> At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

<sup>2</sup> And He called a child to Himself and set him before them,

<sup>3</sup> and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

#### 2 Honor Christ in one another

<sup>5</sup> "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me;

#### 3 Protect one another

<sup>6</sup> but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea.

<sup>7</sup> "Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!

<sup>8</sup> "And if your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the eternal fire.

<sup>9</sup> "And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out, and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into the fiery hell.

<sup>10</sup> "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "*For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.*

<sup>12</sup> "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying?

<sup>13</sup> "And if it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray.

<sup>14</sup> "Thus it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

#### 4 Correct one another

<sup>15</sup> "And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

<sup>16</sup> "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

<sup>17</sup> "And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer.

<sup>18</sup> "Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

<sup>19</sup> "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.

<sup>20</sup> "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."

## **5 Forgive one another**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup> "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

<sup>24</sup> "And when he had begun to settle *them*, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents.

<sup>25</sup> "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.

<sup>26</sup> "The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.'

<sup>27</sup> "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.

<sup>28</sup> "But 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.'

<sup>29</sup> "So his fellow slave fell down and *began* to entreat him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'

<sup>30</sup> "He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

<sup>31</sup> "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

<sup>32</sup> "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me.

<sup>33</sup> 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?'

<sup>34</sup> "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

<sup>35</sup> "So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

## Observations from the parable (verses 21-35)

1. God will settle accounts
2. God is both just and merciful
3. God desires to forgive ALL debts
4. God's forgiveness is a free gift offered to all
5. God paid our debt himself
6. *We are forgiven forgivers*  
Two inseparable words. Each necessitates the other. Matthew 6:14-15
7. Forgiveness is a continuous choice to release the debt and the person to God
8. Forgiveness is based on grace  
Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
9. Don't confuse interpersonal and institutional forgiveness  
Romans 12:19-13:4
10. Don't confuse forgiveness and trust
11. Don't confuse forgiveness and forgetfulness  
Hebrews 10:16-22
12. Don't confuse forgiveness and grief
13. Forgiveness is hard
14. **The ability to forgive comes from the ongoing experience of being forgiven**  
Luke 7:36-50
15. Seek reconciliation where possible  
The parable is tied to the context of correcting and reconciling one another (Matthew 18:15-20)
16. Act on forgiveness