

THE GOSPEL OF  
**MATTHEW**

**Date:** February 25, 2024

**Key Scripture:** Matthew 18:21-35

## **Forgiveness and True Christianity**

- 1) The **debt** we owe for our sin is **more** than we are able to pay.

Romans 7:24 ... "*Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*"

- 2) God **paid** our debt, through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ so we can be **forgiven**.

Colossians 2:13–14 ... "*And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*"

- 3) God has forgiven us **vastly more** than we can ever forgive another.
- 4) Forgiveness is an **event** followed by a **process**.

## Questions to Consider

- 1) Are there any circumstances where I view myself as less sinful than someone who has sinned against you? (“I would never do that!”)
- 2) How does it change your perception to know your sin against God is far more grievous than their sin against you?
- 3) Is there anyone you are withholding forgiveness from?
- 4) What would it look like to offer forgiveness and be open to reconciliation if they truly repent?

## Scripture to Pray

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

**Colossians 3:12-13**

## From the Resources

"Jesus is saying, at the end of the parable, something like this: "If you hold a grudge, if you retaliate against somebody else, then even though you say you believe you're a sinner saved by grace, you don't really believe that. You're denying it in both your heart and your life, no matter what you say."

-Timothy Keller

*Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?* (pp. 15-16).