

28 Parable of Jesus
The Gift of Forgiveness
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

COL Chapter 19: “Measure of Forgiveness”

How deep is God's love for you?

1 John 4:8-10

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 3:16

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is an extremely deep love! God’s love does not excuse sin but offers an escape from it! This true love. God’s love is the solution to sin the problem. Jesus conquered death through God's love for us! Powerful!

What is God's love?

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

God's love is based on principal that comes from the mind of God. True love does not began with an emotional or physical touch. God's loves begins with an intellectual and intentional thought that controls emotion and encourages an appropriate and powerful action.

God's love is offered to you as a gift to save you from sin and death and gives you everlasting life. But in order to activate God's love in your life you must believe, accept it and abide in it!

What is tangible proof that you have accepted God's love and abide in it?

John 15:9-10

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

What must we do to be free from our guilt and bondage of sin?

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

...we go from guilty to NOT guilty. This is justification! Jesus offers forgiveness to ALL people.

How do you know that you have been justified and cleansed from ALL your past sins?

Galatians 2:16

16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 3:24

24 Wherefore the **law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ**, that we might be justified by faith.

Justification by faith alone. But we must be in obedience of God's Word. In order for you to be justified you **MUST** be forgiven.

Hebrews 9:22

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Remission (Greek) = *aphesis* [*af'-es-is*] *freedom*; (figuratively) *pardon*: - deliverance, **forgiveness**, liberty.

Without the shedding of the blood of Jesus forgiveness and cleansing from sin would not be possible.

What is the meaning of forgiveness?

Forgive (Greek) *aphiēmi* [*af-ee'-ay-mee*]; to *send forth*, in various applications: - cry, forsake, lay aside, leave, let (alone, be, go, have), omit, put (send) away, remit, suffer, yield up. (Strong Greek Dictionary)

Lesson: Forgiveness is a manifestation of God's extreme deep love for you! Forgiveness reaches deep into the pit of sin to save you from sure destruction. God's forgiveness takes you from guilty to holiness.

Also - Forgive-(Thayer Greek Dictionary): 1d) to let go, give up a debt, forgive, to remit

The debt of sin is death. It is impossible for you or I to pay the debt. Forgiveness through Christ's blood pays the debt!

While Jesus was on the cross He offers forgiveness as a gift to ALL people. Jesus offered forgiveness to those who spat in His face, condemned Him to an injustice death, and nailed

Him to the cross.

Luk 23:34 Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

The gift of forgiveness is offered on the table of salvation, but it is our responsibility to confess our sins to Christ, then we by faith can pick up the gift of forgiveness.

How deep is God's forgiveness?

Jesus illustrates this in response to Peter's question on forgiveness and a parable.

"Peter had come to Christ with the question, "How oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" The rabbis limited the exercise of forgiveness to three offenses. Peter, carrying out, as he supposed, the teaching of Christ, thought to extend it to seven, the number signifying perfection. But Christ taught that we are never to become weary of forgiving. Not "Until seven times," He said, "but, Until seventy times seven." COL 243

Remember Jesus gave Israel 490 years to make an end of sin in Daniel 9:24

Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

457BC > 34 AD (Israel probation closed!)

What parable does Jesus give us to illustrate how deep our debt is to Him and how deep His forgiveness is for us?

Matthew 18:23-27

- 23** Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.
24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.
25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.
26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.
27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

How deep was the servants debt to the king?

Debt is the amount of money that the servant owed to the king.

Ten thousand talents!

How much is that in today's money?

If these were gold talents it would equal to about \$9040 US dollars per talent.
 \$9040 x 10,000 talents = \$90,400,000 (over 90 million dollars in today money!)

This is extreme amount of money that a servant owes anybody!

Did the servant have the money? NO**What was the king's sentence upon this servant as a payment for his deep debts?**

Command the servant, his wife, his children and ALL that he owned to be sold! House, cattle, clothes, shoes,

furniture, etc... Still this would not be enough to cover the cost that he owed the king.

Can you image yourself owing that type of money in which your payment of debt would result in you and your family being sold and everything you own!

What was the servant reaction when he heard the king's sentence?

He fell down and worshiped the king and pleaded with him. Verse 26 saying "Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all."

In essence what was the servant asking the king?

For more time to pay back the debt.

Think about it! Even if the king granted the servant request do you think he would be able to pay back the enormous debt?

No way! It would take a servant several lifetimes to pay it back. Remember he is a servant!

What was the king's response to the servant's request and his act of humility and worship?

Luke 18:27

27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

In other words, the king freed the servant from the payment of an enormous debt that the servant would in no wise be able to pay!

The king had compassion which is love and mercy working in unison upon those who do not deserve it.

Who does the servant represent? US!

Who does the king with compassion and his pardon represent?

"The pardon granted by this king represents **a divine forgiveness of all sin**. Christ is represented by the king, who, moved with compassion, forgave the debt of his servant. Man was under the condemnation of the broken law. He could not save himself, and for this reason Christ came to this world, clothed His divinity with humanity, and gave His life, the just for the unjust. He gave Himself for our sins, and to every soul He freely offers the blood-bought pardon. "With the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption." Psalm 130:7. COL 244

It was the compassion of Jesus Christ that moved Him to save us from destruction! It was the same compassion that moved Him to teach, preach, and heal!

Matthew 9:35-36

35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was **moved with compassion** on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

This is the same compassion that moved the king to forgive the servant's entire debt.

Spirituality how much are we in debt to the King of king and the Lord of lord?

Death! Sin = death. This is a debt that we cannot pay for.

Parable does not end there!

What did that same servant do when someone owed him money?

Matthew 18:28-30

- 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an **hundred pence**: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.
- 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.
- 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

Wow! Is this the same servant that owed the king millions of dollars of debt, but would not have compassion on his fellow for a hundred pence!

How much is 100 pence?

A hundred in our dollar standard today is about \$3.77!

Compare \$3.77 to what he owed the king over \$90 million dollars! There is no comparison.

What did the servant do to his fellow servant who owed him only \$3.77?

He grabbed his fellow servant and choked him, then had him thrown into prison!

"How many are today manifesting the same spirit. When the debtor pleaded with his lord for mercy, he had no true sense of the greatness of his debt. He did not realize his helplessness. He hoped to deliver himself. "Have patience with me," he said, "and I will pay thee all." So there are many who hope by their own works to merit God's favor. They do not realize their helplessness. They do not accept the grace of God as a free gift, but are trying to build themselves up in self-righteousness. Their own hearts are not broken and humbled on account of sin, and they are exacting and unforgiving toward others. COL 245

What did other fellow servant do when they saw this?

Matthew 18:31

- 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

What was the king's response?

Matthew 18:32

- 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

What very profound and significant question did the king ask the servant?

Matthew 18:33

- 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

What did the king do next to the servant?

Matthew 18:34

- 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

What main lesson was Jesus teaching in this parable?

Matthew 18:35

- 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Here is the ground upon which we should exercise compassion toward our fellow sinners. "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." 1 John 4:11. "Freely ye have received," Christ says, "freely give." Matthew 10:8. {COL 245.1}

Remember forgiveness is a gift. If someone has done you wrong they are required to go to you and God for forgiveness. If they come to you and was sorry for doing you wrong and ask for forgiveness, we are to give them that gift because of the gift of forgiveness that Jesus has given us. Our debt to Him is so much greater.

What does the Lord's prayer teach us about forgiveness?

Matthew 6:9-15

- 9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.
 11 Give us this day our daily bread.
 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.
 14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:
 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Remember forgiveness is a gift offered to all those who have done you wrong, but that gift is not activated unless the offender ask for it.

What did Stephen offer well he was being murdered by the leaders of the church?

Acts 7:59, 60

- 59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

What the church leaders were doing was sin. Stephen was not excusing their sin but offered the gift of forgiveness for those who would later recognize their wrong and later ask for it. Stephen before his death put the gift of forgiveness on the "table" hopefully one day someone will pick it up.

Why is this important in our lives even though you are persecuted and done wrong by others?

So you will not allow anger and hate to control and ruin your life. Forgiveness as a gift "on the table," gives you freedom to believe and live within the promises of God!

Stephen did not die with hate in his heart. He believed in the truth in knew the danger to teaching of the truth, but understood the privilege of being martyred for the sake of Jesus Christ!

Who was an accessory to the crime, while Stephen was being stoned, but later pick of the gift package of Stephen's forgiveness?

Act 7:58 And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

Saul who is also known as Paul.

Lesson:

"But the teaching of this parable should not be misapplied. God's forgiveness toward us lessens in no wise our duty to obey Him. So the spirit of forgiveness toward our fellow men does not lessen the claim of just obligation. In the prayer which Christ taught His disciples He said, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our

debtors." Matthew 6:12. By this He did not mean that in order to be forgiven our sins we must not require our just dues from our debtors. If they cannot pay, even though this may be the result of unwise management, they are not to be cast into prison, oppressed, or even treated harshly; but the parable does not teach us to encourage indolence. The word of God declares that if a man will not work, neither shall he eat. (2 Thessalonians 3:10.) The Lord does not require the hard-working man to support others in idleness. With many there is a waste of time, a lack of effort, which brings to poverty and want. If these faults are not corrected by those who indulge them, all that might be done in their behalf would be like putting treasure into a bag with holes. Yet there is an unavoidable poverty, and we are to manifest tenderness and compassion toward those who are unfortunate. COL 247

The Spirit of FORGIVENESS DOES NOT EXCUSE SIN! Remember it offers freedom for sin, but the sinner must repent, turn from sin, ask for the gift and live within Christ.

Key Lessons:

But sin is not to be lightly regarded. The Lord has commanded us not to suffer wrong upon our brother. He says, "If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him." Luke 17:3. Sin is to be called by its right name, and is to be plainly laid out before the wrongdoer. {COL 248.2}

In his charge to Timothy, Paul, writing by the Holy Spirit, says, "Be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:2. And to Titus he writes, "There are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers. . . . Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith." Titus 1:10-13. {COL 248.3}

"If thy brother shall trespass against thee," Christ said, "go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." Matthew 18:15-17. COL 248

A person that truly apologizes turns from sin!

In conclusion of the parable

The great lesson of the parable lies in the contrast between God's compassion and man's hardheartedness; in the fact that God's forgiving mercy is to be the measure of our own. "Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?" {COL 251.3}

We are not forgiven because we forgive, but as we forgive. The ground of all forgiveness is found in the unmerited love of God, but by our attitude toward others we show whether we have made that love our own. Wherefore Christ says, "With what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matthew 7:2. {COL 251.4}

Our debt to Christ is deep deep deep! If you are still living in sin the debt is still deep and it must be forgiven. Jesus has the gift of forgiveness on the table but you must repent and confess your specific sins to God in order to receive God's forgiveness and be free from the burdened of sin.

Time is short!

God's gift is before you. What are you going to do? Time is extremely short and Bible prophecy is rapid fulfilling!

This past week how many major earthquakes did we have?

Indonesia 6.5 killing over 100 people

7.8 Earthquake Strikes Near the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific

Magnitude-6.5 earthquake reported off Northern California

Magnitude 5.8 quake rattles Trinidad, nearby islands

[Show graphic of earthquake around the world 4.0 or greater in the last 7 days alone]

Vatican murderous ways in our modern world is being exposed

Vatican – caught red handed in the Rwandan genocide

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/11/22/catholic_church_in_rwanda_apologises_for_role_in_genocide/1273928

Catholic Church in Rwanda apologises for role in 1994 genocide

The Catholic Church in Rwanda apologised on Sunday for the Church's role in the 1994 genocide, saying it regretted the actions of those who participated in the massacres.

The statement acknowledged that Church members planned, aided and executed the genocide, in which over 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by Hutu extremists.

Many of the victims died at the hands of priests, clergymen and nuns, according to some accounts by survivors, and the Rwandan government says many died in the Churches where they had sought refuge.

This is a “Judas” apology. True apology is turning from sin.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Rev 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Rev 13:15 And he [USA] had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

United Nations also recently caught red handed!

UN apologizes for Haiti's cholera epidemic without noting it brought the disease

United Nations Secretary Ban Ki-moon has ended—sort of-- six years of UN stonewalling over Haiti's mammoth cholera epidemic with a weak apology that the world organization “simply did not do enough” about the epidemic, without mentioning that UN peacekeepers brought the deadly disease to the hemisphere's poorest country in the first place.

A long-suppressed UN audit of Haiti peacekeepers, reported on by Fox News last August, found that in 2014 and 2015, at the very least, they were still dumping sewage wastewater into Haitian public canals, ignoring laboratory warnings of fecal contamination of wastewater, and failing to maintain water treatment plants, among many other things.

Get Ready... Who will be head of the United Nations beginning in 2017

António Guterres – Roman Catholic

<https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2016/10/07/new-un-secretary-general-become-key-papal-ally/>

New UN Secretary General could become key papal ally

ROME- Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres is set to become the next United Nations secretary-general, and as a Catholic Socialist with a deep concern for refugees and global justice generally, he could become a key ally of Pope Francis.

Guterres emerged as the Security Council runaway favorite on Wednesday, when all 15 members agreed to put his name forward to a formal vote, which happened on Thursday.

Having the support of the world's super-powers: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States

LGBT Symposium at Loma Linda University

Appeal

Ezekiel 14:12 - 23