

SERMON NOTES

Saturday/Sunday, September 16/17, 2023 – Pastor Kischnick

THEME: “Forgiven Much...Forgiving Little” **TEXT:** Matthew 18:21-35

INTRO. An African Air Force = 6 Am. Jets, 1 airbase. 5 parked, 1 spooling up, canopy open, helmet off, preflight checklist. 2nd Lt. on 3rd tee, shanks it and ball hits pilot in head, out! Plane rolls into other 5. All damaged. 2nd Lt. court-martialed, owes \$27 M! At his pay, 900 yrs. to pay it off!

GOSPEL: Peter, “How many times must forgive? 7x? Jesus, “No, but 77x!” What?!! Who can do that? Well, only One.

I. FORGIVEN MUCH

ILLUST. African 2nd Lt. can never pay his debt, impossible.

A. Parable: King’s servant owes 100 BAGS of gold! An impossible debt!

1. Years and years of running up the tab.
2. Desperate to save self and family – “Be patient with me!”

ILLUST. Study late ‘90’s > 1st spike in divorces yr. 3: debt, fight/money/left

B. Jesus draws picture of our debt to God =

1. How many sins yesterday? Last week? Last year?
2. How do you plan to repay that debt? You CANNOT. Good works?

C. We have an impossible debt that works righteousness cannot redress.

1. “All their righteousnesses are as filthy rags. No one...no not one.”
2. Jesus: “What can a person give in exchange for their soul?”

D. YET the King graciously forgives it ALL!

1. The King himself bears the loss → Jesus pays the price on CROSS.
2. His Resurrection is the receipt form the Father = PAID IN FULL!
3. We, like the servant, are forgiven and set free. To what end?

II. FORGIVING: HOW MUCH?

ILLUST. Woman confessed 5th Petition of Lord’s Prayer troubled her; could not say she’d forgiven her father. Thus would God not forgive her?

A. Whole point of parable > Forgiven much...Be forgiving.

1. 100 bags of gold v. 100 silver coins = in comparison.
2. Not allowed to wallow in anger, hatred, vengeance.
3. These only burn the ones who hold them > will destroy us.

B. Understand that we will never be as forgiving as God.

1. Greater the hurt, the harder it is to forgive.
2. IF THERE IS ANYTHING we have to do to gain God’s forgiveness then we’re right back into “works righteousness”.

C. “Forgive us AS we are forgiving others.” Leave justice to God.

CLOSING: 5/13/81, St. Peter’s Sq. Mehmet Ali Agca shot Pope John Paul II twice. From hospital Pope asked all pray for “my brother Agca”. 1983 visit forgave Agca. Pardoned, deported 2000. Converted 2007.