

## A KEY TO THE KINGDOM - FORGIVENESS

**MATTHEW 18:21-35** THEN PETER CAME TO JESUS AND ASKED, "LORD, HOW MANY TIMES SHALL I FORGIVE MY BROTHER WHEN HE SINS AGAINST ME? UP TO SEVEN TIMES?"

<sup>22</sup>JESUS ANSWERED, "I TELL YOU, NOT SEVEN TIMES, BUT SEVENTY-SEVENS TIMES.

<sup>23</sup>"THEREFORE, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A KING WHO WANTED TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH HIS SERVANTS. <sup>24</sup>AS HE BEGAN THE SETTLEMENT, A MAN WHO OWED HIM TEN THOUSAND TALENTS WAS BROUGHT TO HIM. <sup>25</sup>SINCE HE WAS NOT ABLE TO PAY, THE MASTER ORDERED THAT HE AND HIS WIFE AND HIS CHILDREN AND ALL THAT HE HAD BE SOLD TO REPAY THE DEBT. <sup>26</sup>"THE SERVANT FELL ON HIS KNEES BEFORE HIM. 'BE PATIENT WITH ME,' HE BEGGED, 'AND I WILL PAY BACK EVERYTHING.' <sup>27</sup>THE SERVANT'S MASTER TOOK PITY ON HIM, CANCELED THE DEBT AND LET HIM GO. <sup>28</sup>"BUT WHEN THAT SERVANT WENT OUT, HE FOUND ONE OF HIS FELLOW SERVANTS WHO OWED HIM A HUNDRED DENARI. HE GRABBED HIM AND BEGAN TO CHOKE HIM. 'PAY BACK WHAT YOU OWE ME!' HE DEMANDED. <sup>29</sup>"HIS FELLOW SERVANT FELL TO HIS KNEES AND BEGGED HIM, 'BE PATIENT WITH ME, AND I WILL PAY YOU BACK.' <sup>30</sup>"BUT HE REFUSED. INSTEAD, HE WENT OFF AND HAD THE MAN THROWN INTO PRISON UNTIL HE COULD PAY THE DEBT. <sup>31</sup>WHEN THE OTHER SERVANTS SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED, THEY WERE GREATLY DISTRESSED AND WENT AND TOLD THEIR MASTER EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED. <sup>32</sup>"THEN THE MASTER CALLED THE SERVANT IN. 'YOU WICKED SERVANT,' HE SAID, 'I CANCELED ALL THAT DEBT OF YOURS BECAUSE YOU BEGGED ME TO. <sup>33</sup>SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE HAD MERCY ON YOUR FELLOW SERVANT JUST AS I HAD ON YOU?' <sup>34</sup>IN ANGER HIS MASTER TURNED HIM OVER TO THE JAILERS TO BE TORTURED, UNTIL HE SHOULD PAY BACK ALL HE OWED. <sup>35</sup>"THIS IS HOW MY HEAVENLY FATHER WILL TREAT EACH OF YOU UNLESS YOU FORGIVE YOUR BROTHER FROM YOUR HEART."

A. **EPHESIANS 1:7** IN HIM WE HAVE REDEMPTION [OUR LIFE HAS BEEN PURCHASED, IT IS NO LONGER OURS] THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS,[THROUGH HIS BLOOD SIN WAS FORGIVEN] IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RICHES OF GOD'S GRACE [AND WHAT DID THIS, THE UNMERITED FAVOR OF GOD.]

I. IT IS THE ACT THAT SAVED US, IT IS NOT THE ACT THAT MAKES US A CHILD OF GOD WITH GREAT BENEFIT.

2. KINGDOM

A. HAS A KING - THE HEAVENLY FATHER

I. MATTHEW 18: 35 - THIS IS HOW MY HEAVENLY FATHER WILL TREAT EACH OF YOU

B. IT HAS AN AREA

I. **JOHN 18:36** JESUS SAID, "MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD. IF IT WERE, MY SERVANTS WOULD FIGHT TO PREVENT MY ARREST BY THE JEWS. BUT NOW MY KINGDOM IS FROM ANOTHER PLACE."

(1) DOES NOT SAY, IT IS NOT IN THIS WORLD, BUT IS NOT OF THIS WORLD.

C. IT HAS SUBJECTS

I. **JOHN 10:27** MY SHEEP LISTEN TO MY VOICE; I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME.

- D. IT HAS LAWS
- I. **JOHN 15:9** "AS THE FATHER HAS LOVED ME, SO HAVE I LOVED YOU. NOW REMAIN IN MY LOVE.
  - II. **JOHN 15:12** MY COMMAND IS THIS: LOVE EACH OTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.
- E. NOT AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO BREAK THE LAWS
- I. **EPHES. 5:5** FOR OF THIS YOU CAN BE SURE: NO IMMORAL, IMPURE OR GREEDY PERSON--SUCH A MAN IS AN IDOLATER--HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD.
- F. IT HAS BENEFITS
- I. **JOHN 10:10** THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY; I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL.  
(1) NOT WILL HAVE, BUT MAY HAVE.
3. THE WORD IS CLEAR, THE CHILD OF GOD HAS A MUCH HIGHER STANDARD TO LIVE BY.
- A. **MATTHEW 6:14-15** FOR IF YOU FORGIVE MEN WHEN THEY SIN AGAINST YOU, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER WILL ALSO FORGIVE YOU. <sup>15</sup>BUT IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE MEN THEIR SINS, YOUR FATHER WILL NOT FORGIVE YOUR SINS.
  - B. **MATTHEW 5:7** BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY.
  - C. **MATTHEW 5:39-41** BUT I TELL YOU, DO NOT RESIST AN EVIL PERSON. IF SOMEONE STRIKES YOU ON THE RIGHT CHEEK, TURN TO HIM THE OTHER ALSO. <sup>40</sup>AND IF SOMEONE WANTS TO SUE YOU AND TAKE YOUR TUNIC, LET HIM HAVE YOUR CLOAK AS WELL. <sup>41</sup>IF SOMEONE FORCES YOU TO GO ONE MILE, GO WITH HIM TWO MILES.
  - D. **MATTHEW 6:14-15** FOR IF YOU FORGIVE MEN WHEN THEY SIN AGAINST YOU, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER WILL ALSO FORGIVE YOU. <sup>15</sup>BUT IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE MEN THEIR SINS, YOUR FATHER WILL NOT FORGIVE YOUR SINS.
  - E. **MARK 11:25-26** AND WHEN YOU STAND PRAYING, IF YOU HOLD ANYTHING AGAINST ANYONE, FORGIVE HIM, SO THAT YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN MAY FORGIVE YOU YOUR SINS." <sup>26</sup>
  - F. **LUKE 6:27-37** "BUT I TELL YOU WHO HEAR ME: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU, <sup>28</sup>BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE YOU, PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT YOU. <sup>29</sup>IF SOMEONE STRIKES YOU ON ONE CHEEK, TURN TO HIM THE OTHER ALSO. IF SOMEONE TAKES YOUR CLOAK, DO NOT STOP HIM FROM TAKING YOUR TUNIC. <sup>30</sup>GIVE TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU, AND IF ANYONE TAKES WHAT BELONGS TO YOU, DO NOT DEMAND IT BACK. <sup>31</sup>DO TO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO TO YOU. <sup>32</sup>"IF YOU LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE YOU, WHAT CREDIT IS THAT TO YOU? EVEN 'SINNERS' LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE THEM. <sup>33</sup>AND IF YOU DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO ARE GOOD TO YOU, WHAT CREDIT IS THAT TO YOU? EVEN 'SINNERS' DO THAT. <sup>34</sup>AND IF YOU LEND TO THOSE FROM WHOM YOU EXPECT REPAYMENT, WHAT CREDIT IS THAT TO YOU? EVEN 'SINNERS' LEND TO 'SINNERS,' EXPECTING TO BE REPAID IN FULL. <sup>35</sup>BUT LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD TO THEM, AND LEND TO THEM WITHOUT EXPECTING TO GET ANYTHING BACK. THEN YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE SONS OF THE MOST HIGH, BECAUSE HE IS KIND TO THE UNGRATEFUL AND WICKED. <sup>36</sup>BE MERCIFUL, JUST AS YOUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL. <sup>37</sup>"DO NOT JUDGE, AND YOU WILL NOT BE JUDGED. DO NOT CONDEMN, AND YOU WILL NOT BE CONDEMNED. FORGIVE, AND YOU WILL

**BE FORGIVEN.**

- G. **ROMANS 12:14** BLESS THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU; BLESS AND DO NOT CURSE.
  - H. **ROMANS 12:17** DO NOT REPAY ANYONE EVIL FOR EVIL. BE CAREFUL TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN THE EYES OF EVERYBODY.
  - I. **COLOSSIANS 3:13** BEAR WITH EACH OTHER AND FORGIVE WHATEVER GRIEVANCES YOU MAY HAVE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER. FORGIVE AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU.
  - J. **1 PETER 3:9** DO NOT REPAY EVIL WITH EVIL OR INSULT WITH INSULT, BUT WITH BLESSING, BECAUSE TO THIS YOU WERE CALLED SO THAT YOU MAY INHERIT A BLESSING.
4. WHY IS GOD SO DEMANDING THAT WE LIVE OUR LIVES LIKE THIS?
- A. **EPHES. 6:12** FOR OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE RULERS, AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES, AGAINST THE POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD AND AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS.