

Greetings Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I trust this finds "all ya'll" feeling a little relief from the heat -- it under 100 !

1. Please pray then reread Matt. 18: 21-35.

2. The "astronomically large" figure in vs. 24 (equivalent to 200,000 days labor) is simply intended to be a figure that CANNOT be repaid. And that how great God's grace is: He forgives us a debt of sin we could NEVER repay. In the end He paid **that debt** on the cross as He died for us -- in our place. **Step one:** have you come to know, understand, and treasure God's Amazing Grace? Once you have truly received God's forgiveness, THEN you are ready to "pass it on". **You can't give away what you don't have!**

3. Verse 28 and following shows someone who is not PRACTICING FORGIVENESS. *Having received God's infinite forgiveness now let's start practicing it ourselves.* Start small! If you've had a huge hurt in your life, don't start there, start small by practicing forgiving folks for everyday things/issues/problems/hurt feelings/etc. Like all things in life , the more you practice it the better you become at it!

4. Don't get hung up on the "**what ifs**". E.g.: *What if* the person offering you didn't repent? *What if* you're afraid "they'll just do it again". *What if* they're dead and you can't work this out with them? *What if, what if, what if??* Here's one more "*what if*": *What if* you were wrong about the situation or misunderstood , or, or, or.... -- remember the sermon story about the ship captain...? ☺ .

5. In the end, withholding forgiveness from others really does you more harm than them. Remember the Max Lucado quote: "**Forgiveness is unlocking the door to set someone free and realizing you were the prisoner.....**"

FORGIVE!!!

See you Sunday!

Pastor

Rev. Michael W. Birnbaum