

Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering is next Sunday, September 24th at 3pm including Childrens Ministry for children ages 5-10. Come, bring a friend, and *pass the word to young families!*
- Life in the Spirit seminar is starting Oct 8th. Details attached. Pass the word to anyone interested in a deeper encounter and experience of the Holy Spirit!
- GodsDelight.org content: [Jubilee](#); Prayer Meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), & [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

When I read the [Gospel](#) today, I was surprised that the debt the unforgiving debtor was said to owe was described simply as a 'huge' amount. I seemed to recall a specific amount being used. At the risk of confirming a playful family argument about the 'best' translation I read Laurie's Jerusalem bible. It refers to the debt at "ten thousand talents". A little research explains that a talent was twenty years of a day laborers wage. Simple math prompts the question how could the unforgiving debtor borrow 200,000 years of wages? Obviously, this seems impossible prompting the question, what was Jesus trying to explain about the Kingdom of Heaven through this parable.

In the Gospel scene, we suspect that one of the disciples is really getting on Peter's nerves. This brother has offended him over and over and Peter has been counting each offense. After the seventh time he is really frustrated and decides to justify calling it quits and asks Jesus whether seven is the limit. We know Jesus' response but ponder again the size of the debt that Jesus states the unforgiving debtor owes...200,000 years of wages.

It appears clear that Jesus was referring to the debt that we all incur and add to every time we choose not to love. We are not unique, we all suffer from the human condition and the natural tendency to focus on our wants and needs. But, in this passage, Jesus is teaching His disciples about the salvation that is coming through His sacrifice and how we are to follow Him into the Kingdom.

His words are clear and specific, we are to forgive seventy times seven, clearly representing a number too large to count and keep track of.

This is not a new message and one that we are very familiar with living in Christian Community. We were all taught the importance of asking for forgiveness for every offense and the importance of giving forgiveness with the specific words "I forgive you". What I think is worth pondering today is how much hurt is caused and carried by a lack of forgiveness. It is likely that nearly all of us suffer from some past offense or lack of forgiveness that handicaps our ability to really be sold out for the Lord in the freedom He intends.

If that is us, then let us ask a brother or sister to pray for us for inner healing. If the Holy Spirit brings up anything where we are carrying an offense or have given an offense, then let's take time today to contact that person and be reconciled.

God is not finished with us yet and the power that comes from being reconciled and free is awesome. If we are hesitant to act on this, I encourage you to reread the last two verses of the Gospel again. Jesus uses very strong language and communicates that this is not an optional lesson!

Let us pray, "Jesus, I thank You for becoming man and teaching us so clearly how to follow You. Thank You for pointing the way to the Kingdom and giving us the Holy Spirit to empower our journey. Please give me the fortitude to be reconciled with my spouse, my children, my parents, my siblings, my boss, my coworker, with every person You have brought into my life. I want to be totally free of all the bondage that prevents me from being totally surrendered to You and at Your service. I forgive every person who has ever wronged me. Free me, heal me, use me. I love You!"

God Bless,
David