

## 490

## I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 Larry: Children's Ministry Opp. Real Tues. Thanksgiving Eve. *[ch office closed]* Women's Christmas. Belize Construction Missions Trip.
- B. Slide7 Safe Families: Today during 3rd service, Agape rm. Host Family *or* Family Friend. PT
- C. Slide8 Children at Risk: Today at 3pm Agape Rm. Various Ministry opp & start planning JM6.
  1. Our county's *anti human trafficking task force* has about 20 survivor/clients that have Christmas *wish lists*. If you are interested in *adopting* one of the clients for Christmas, please contact Kelly.
- D. Slide9 Gifts For Eternity 2016: TY to Larry, Kel, Cheryl, Stew/Sheldon Ivester.
  1. Suggested amounts, but any amount. 2 ways to give (online/envelope).

## II. Slide10 Intro: 490

- A. All Forgivenesses Are Not Alike
- B. Did you know that the only animal the **grizzly** would allow to eat with him is the **skunk**. Grizzly bears in Yellowstone Park often come to eat at the place where garbage is dumped. This huge bear can fight and beat almost any animal in the West, but it lets the skunk share its meal. The grizzly surely resents the skunk **and** could have easily killed the little creature in any fight. No doubt the bear would have liked to have gotten even with him for his intrusion. But he didn't. Why? Because he knew *the high cost of getting even*.
  1. Slide11a Bitterness is the most dangerous of all plagues to healthy Christian living. It is the "cancer of the soul", and it claims millions of victims each year. It spreads faster than the common cold.
  2. Slide11b/c Yet there is a cure for this plague. It is in the word **forgive**. The word is a common one, but the essence of the word is in the last part, **give**. To **for GIVE** means to give someone a release from the wrong that he has done to you. It means to give up any right of retaliation.
  3. God's forgiveness, which must coordinate with His justice, is based upon the payment of the penalty by a substitute. Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross.

C. When God forgives He forgives completely. This is *Judicial Forgiveness*. It is one of **3 kinds** of forgiveness in the Bible. [All Forgivenesses Are Not Alike]

1. **Slide12a Judicial Forgiveness** - is the eternal forgiveness of all sins of the one who has trusted Christ. This has to do with the believer's relationship with God. It is once for all, eternal, and conditioned only on faith in Christ. *Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt.* Ps.32:1,2a nlt

a) You can say right now, *as I have trusted Christ, **all my sins past, present, and future are forgiven**. God remembers my sin no more.*

2. **Slide13b Paternal Forgiveness** - is the restoration of fellowship with God the Father **after** the believer has broken fellowship by **continued, unconfessed sin**. This has to do with the believer's **fellowship** with God.

a) The conditions to this kind of forgiveness are **twofold**:

(1) **Confession**

(a) 1 John 1:9 *But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

(b) John 13:10 Jesus to Peter/while washing feet *A person who has **bathed all over** does not need to wash, except for the **feet**, to be entirely clean.*

(c) Matt. 6:12 *forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us* - remember, this is a *daily prayer* by a believer.

(2) **Forgiveness of others** (see next one)

3. **Slide12c Personal Forgiveness** - is the restoration of fellowship w/another human being

a) This facet of forgiveness is so important that Jesus **conditions** our forgiveness **and restoration** to fellowship w/the Father on our willingness to forgive others.

Matt. 6:14,15; 18:21-35; Luke 6:37; Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:31-32

b) **Personal forgiveness has a vertical dimension** - we must release the person to God.

c) **Personal forgiveness has a horizontal dimension** - we must confront the offender and forgive if he repents.

- (1) Lk.17:3,4 *If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him.*
- (2) **2 things:** if he repents & if he says/not nec shows.
- d) You might think, *what if I'm taken advantage of?* Well, what if Jesus asked that same question right before going to the cross?
- (1) God absorbed the hurt of our sin on the cross & offers us forgiveness & reconciliation.
- e) **Ps:** They're not going to get away with murder. Maybe get away w/it from you...**but NOT from God**...the *woe* still hangs around their neck/millstone (Lk.17:1,2).

### III. Slide13 **HOW OFTEN? (21,22)**

- A. (21) **7 Times?** *maybe this was from...*
1. The day of Atonement in Lev16 where there was a **7-fold sprinkling of blood**. 1 to atone for the *sin of the world* w/a goat (other 1 scape-goat). **And** another a **7-fold sprinkling of blood** from a bull for the atonement of **himself/priest & his family**.
  2. Or it was from the Jews understanding of Job 33:29,30 *i.e.* forgiving 3 times.
    - a) **Behold, God works all these things, twice - in fact 3 times w/a man, to bring back his soul from the Pit, that he may be enlightened with the light of life.**
    - b) Peter sensed the Lord's attitude was much more gracious, **so** he ramped it up all the way to **7 x's!**
- B. (22) Imagine Jesus answering, *Yes, Peter, that is enough.*
1. Jesus, **doesn't unlimited mercy** encourage a life of sin?  
Jesus, **wouldn't you agree, enough is enough?**
- C. **Did 490 times startle Peter?** Who could keep track of that many offenses?
1. **That was the point.** 1 Cor.13:5 says, **Love keeps no records of wrongs.**
  2. Forgive that many times & you'll be in the **habit** of forgiving.
    - a) As long long as one can say, *I have forgiven my brother X number of times*, one is not showing forgiveness.
    - b) The answer of **How Often** is quickly answered by **Every Time!**

c) The fundamental error was trying *to put a limit on* forgiveness.

d) *W/love there can be no limits.*

3. It's true Peter didn't go far enough...*but do WE go as far? - When was the last time you had to go to 7?*

D. *Jesus now goes into a Parable:* But he doesn't tell of a story of a man who repeatedly, day after day, stands before his Master to ask forgiveness for sins he repeatedly commits. *Instead* - To give expression to **our debt w/God**, He teaches the story of the man who owed his master a tremendous debt.

#### IV. Slide14 **FABULOUS FORGIVENESS (23-27) Scene1**

A. (23) Note the overall theme in vs.35 Brother to Brother forgiveness.

1. One of the most effective ways God has for keeping us "Forgiveness-Conscious" is our relationship w/other bel.'s.
2. In the daily pressure & disagreements of life, we have many reminders of what God has done for us.

B. (24,25) Here we have Pure Justice.

1. This servant did owe the debt. *That was never an issue.* It was a debt the servant could not pay back.
  - a) A talent was the largest denomination in their monetary system.
  - b) For comparison *Herod the Great's annual revenue* from his entire kingdom was about **900 talents**. [Joseph, Antiq. 17:318-20] *About \$10 million in today's buying power.*
    - (1) Since God's love can't be measured, it's approximated w/a sum which ran into the millions.
  - c) *A man would have to work 15 yrs to earn 1 Talent.* This was an enormous amount to impress the hearer w/the tragic circumstance of this debtor. [10,000 x's 15 yrs = 150,000 years to pay off]

C. **Man's debt** is so great that God has to forgive us *infinitely more* than the numerical count of 70 x 7.

D. This man was *Absolutely Helpless*...except for one thing...*The king was a man of Compassion.* He assumed the loss & forgave the servant.

1. The servant was 100% undeserving of this.

E. **One was brought to him** - He would have never come on his own.

1. He also would have **run up his debt** unto 20,000 Talents, **for** the sinner goes on **storing up** an even greater sum. [*treasuring up* - nkjv]

a) **Slide15/16** Rom.2:5 *But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are **storing up** terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.*

F. (26) He pleads for Mercy, not for Remission - He promised Restitution, which he knew he couldn't pay back.

G. (27) He receives what he least expected...**an Acquittal!** Incredible. What Joy. What Kindness...*how will he show his gratitude?*

## V. **Slide17 JUGULAR JUSTICE (28-30) Scene2**

A. (28) Descending down the steps of the royal palace, he runs into an old buddy who owes him about 4 months of a wage.

1. The servant immediately becomes *Policeman, Judge, & Jury*.

2. **Amazing how quick this Mercy was forgotten.**

3. This debt was **insignificant** compared to what the servant had owed the king.

4. What he should have shared was the **Joy** of his own release.

5. A truly forgiven man reflects God's **mercy & compassion**.

B. **Slide18a** (29) **The plea** is by no accident **identical**.

1. At least this man had a good shot at paying it back.

2. He gives no time in which to pay it back, no interest to tack to it, not the slightest budge to work with him.

C. **Slide18b** (30) Not that he **could not**, but he **would not**.

1. Instead of letting **mercy** triumph, he chose to have **justice** triumph.

a) George Herbert, *He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.*

2. **He wanted justice** - **so** in return he had to face the king one last time & he received **justice back**.

- a) Often we look at **justice** as the norm, & **mercy** as an occasional abandonment of that norm.
- b) We look at showing **mercy** as *our right* when we *feel* like being lenient.

## VI. Slide19 **MAD MASTER (31-35) Scene3**

- A. In the last act of this **drama** he faces an *Angry Master*. **Justice is administered w/o Mercy.**
  1. The forgiven man **did** have the *Legal right* to throw him in prison, **but** he **didn't** have the *Moral right*.
- B. (31) The servants were very grieved, the king was angry (34).
  1. We **grieve** over another's sin; **but** God has a **pure Hatred** over it.
- C. (32) **because you begged me - not** because you deserved it.
- D. (33) The **guilt** laid to his charge is not that *needing mercy* he refused to show it, **but** that *having received mercy*, he remains unmerciful still.
  1. **Slide20a** *To be forgiven is the root; to forgive is the flower.*
- E. (34) The king originally delivered him from prison, **but** the servant put himself back in.
  1. **So you want Justice?** OK, so be it.
  2. James 2:13 *For judgment is w/o mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.*
  3. **Pay all that was due to him** - He is expressing the eternal duration of this punishment.
- F. **Slide20b** (35) Note this verse stresses that *forgiveness* is **a matter of the heart**.
  1. **Is forgiveness just a feeling** you have toward somebody, **or** are there some definite conditions that must be met, if forgiveness is to be real?
  2. Lord, may my heart be as ready to *pardon offenses* as it is **to beat**.
- G. **Wrap Up:**
- H. **Slide21a** We need to **Receive** Forgiveness, **Experience** Forgiveness, & **then Share** Forgiveness
  1. **Have you only received** forgiveness, **or** have you really **experienced** it to the point that you **share** it with others?
- I. **Slide21b** I've been in some pretty bad prisons *in PI, Haiti, Russia, Ukraine*. **But** the world's worse prison is the prison of *an unforgiving heart*.

1. Some of the most miserable people are people who have not forgiven someone. *Is that you? We are the losers if we do not forgive others.*
  2. *Slide22/23* We have *Nothing to lose & Everything to gain* when we practice *Forgiveness*.
- J. Eph.4:32 *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.*