

Paying The Piper



Parables , What do We Know?

- 1.* They used everyday objects, events and images to communicate important truth.
- 2.* They were designed to test, not the intelligence but the spiritual responsiveness of the hearer.
- 3.* Great insight about God and his Kingdom can be ours by listening carefully to these parables

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So Far We Know: “The Dirt In My Life”

- The Seed of Truth is planted and grows in our lives
- We are responsible for the soil of our hearts
- Soil can be:

Hard - trampled down and packed with other things

Shallow - truth bursts into growth and dies

Crowded - full of weeds that prevent fruitful growth

Fertile - carefully tended and prepared, cared for

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So Far We Know: “It’s Like ...”

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like

God’s To Judge - Wheat and Weeds are His to evaluate

God’s To Grow - Do for God what He asks, leave results

God’s To Change - The Kingdom alters us for all to see

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So Far We Know: “Fair Market Value And God”

1. God Uses Who He Determines In His Kingdom
2. God’s Grace is His to Bestow Not Ours To Negotiate
3. We Can Become Disgruntled With God
4. Wrong attitudes and expectations will rob you of all joy

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Today - Parable of The Unforgiving Debtor

Matthew 18:23-35

Setting -

- Disciples argue about who would be greatest
- Jesus gives two warnings
- Jesus shows how to treat a believer who sins
- Peter asks about forgiving others
- Parable

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Helpful Hints For Today:

- Wake Up
- Understanding Peter's Question

“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” vs21

- “Therefore” - Key to Understanding Parable

Parable not about Salvation, it is told amidst teaching on how to treat one another within the family of God. Forgiving a brother, how we treat one another, all important in the Kingdom of God.

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I Owe

1. The Debt

- The King is settling accounts with His servants
- The Debt is ridiculously large
 - 10 000 Talents = entire annual income of kingdom
 - 1 silver talent = 6000 dracma's
 - 1 dracma = average days wage
 - debt is 60 million days wages
 - equivalent to 10 million today

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I Owe

1. The Debt

- The King is settling accounts with His servants
- The Debt is ridiculously large
- The King orders a settlement vs. 25
- There is a plea for time vs. 26
 - no grip on reality, time is not relevant

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I Owe

2. The King

- Immense amount would make an impact
- How he treated this would be noticed
- There is pity for the man vs.26
- The debt is released

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You Owe

1. The Debt

- The Servant is owed a debt
- The amount is small in relation to what he owed
 - 100 denarii = 100 days common labor
 - equivalent to aprox. 3 months wages
- The Servant went looking to settle the debt. Vs.28
- There is a plea for time to pay. Vs. 29

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You Owe

2. The Response

- Refusal to ignore the debt or need of repayment
- Imprisons the debtor
 - common practice to put those who owed money and could not repay in jail until debt settled by family.

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Oh No!

1. The Servants Actions Are Noticed
2. The King Takes Action
3. Servants Actions bring Consequences
4. Jail and Torture are the Result

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So What

Three Simple Observations - *I Owe, You Owe, Oh No!*

We Have Been Forgiven A Debt We Can't Pay

- *Deserved To Be Punished*
- *Granted release when we asked*
- *There is a difference between receiving forgiveness and experiencing forgiveness.*

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So What

Three Simple Observations - *I Owe, You Owe, Oh No!*

There Will Be Things We Must Forgive

- *Others will offend and hurt us*
- *Our Attitude and actions towards them are noticed*
- *We can only extend forgiveness to others when we experience it in our lives, not simply receive it.*
- *Often we have the legal right, not the moral right*

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So What

Three Simple Observations - *I Owe, You Owe, Oh No!*

How We Forgive Affects Our Relationship With God

- *Releasing hurts from our hearts is essential*
- *Unforgiveness within the body imprisons the people*
- *If we experience forgiveness, we can extend it to others from a changed heart.*
- *God is aware of your heart attitude and how you treat others*

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So What

Three Simple Observations - *I Owe, You Owe, Oh No!*

*“And be you kind one to another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath
forgiven you.” Eph. 4:32*