



Easter Series

Moments that Matter

Now What

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Easter Season – celebrated Jesus Sacrifice for us
Themes:

- Problem of Sin & Separation – dealt with
- Amazing Love & Faithfulness of God
- Reality for Those in Christ
 - Redeemed
 - Forgiven
 - Adopted
 - Full Inheritance
 - Holy Spirit

1. Living with Recognition

- easy to grow indifferent
- story of those spared – generation later
- Mercy – not receiving what I deserve
- Grace – receiving what I didn't deserve

a) instructed to keep aware of this

- 2 Cor. 6:1 “Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.”

b) Parable that instructs us – Matt. 18:23-35

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

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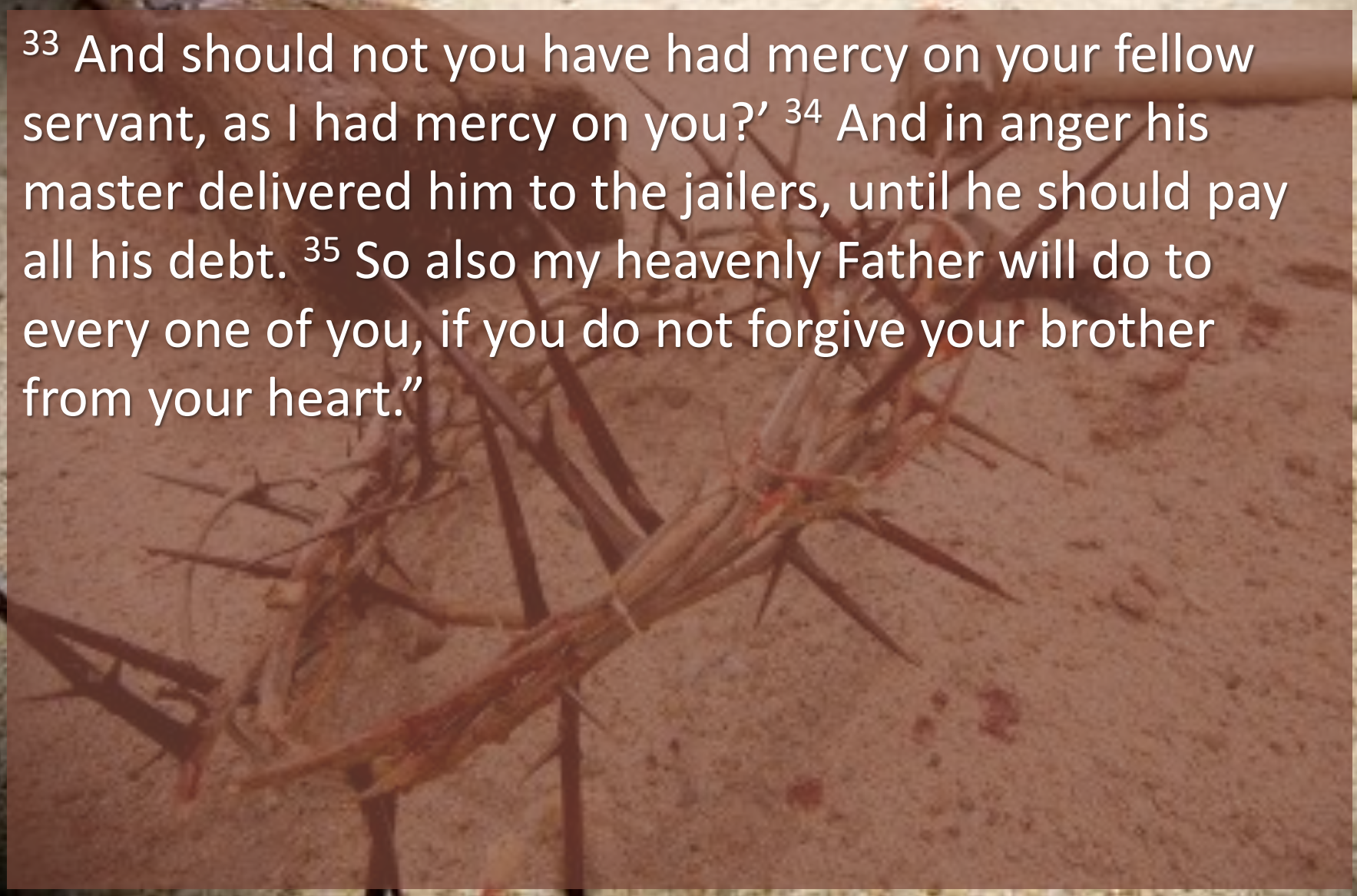
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²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

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³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."



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- someone spared when their debt unpayable
 - affected many around them
 - did not extend that mercy or grace
 - sense of justice offended – didn't you appreciate what happened for you?
 - lost the gift extended by his choices
- c) problem of entitlement
- see only us – not others and our role

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Tips for Living with Recognition

a) Rhythm of Remembering

- daily, weekly (sabbath), monthly, during year

b) Regular Relationship with God

- staying in the Word
- prayer – both talking and listening

c) Gratitude in Your Daily Routine

- posture changes perspective
- seeing and marking what is happening

2. Eyes Open & Aware

- distracted people, not paying attention
- loss of situational awareness – danger
- realities to be aware of – keep eyes on

a) Enemy who desires your destruction

- 1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be sober-minded; be watchful.

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

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- spiritual realm a reality
- have an enemy determined to destroy
- resist – we need to be active in something

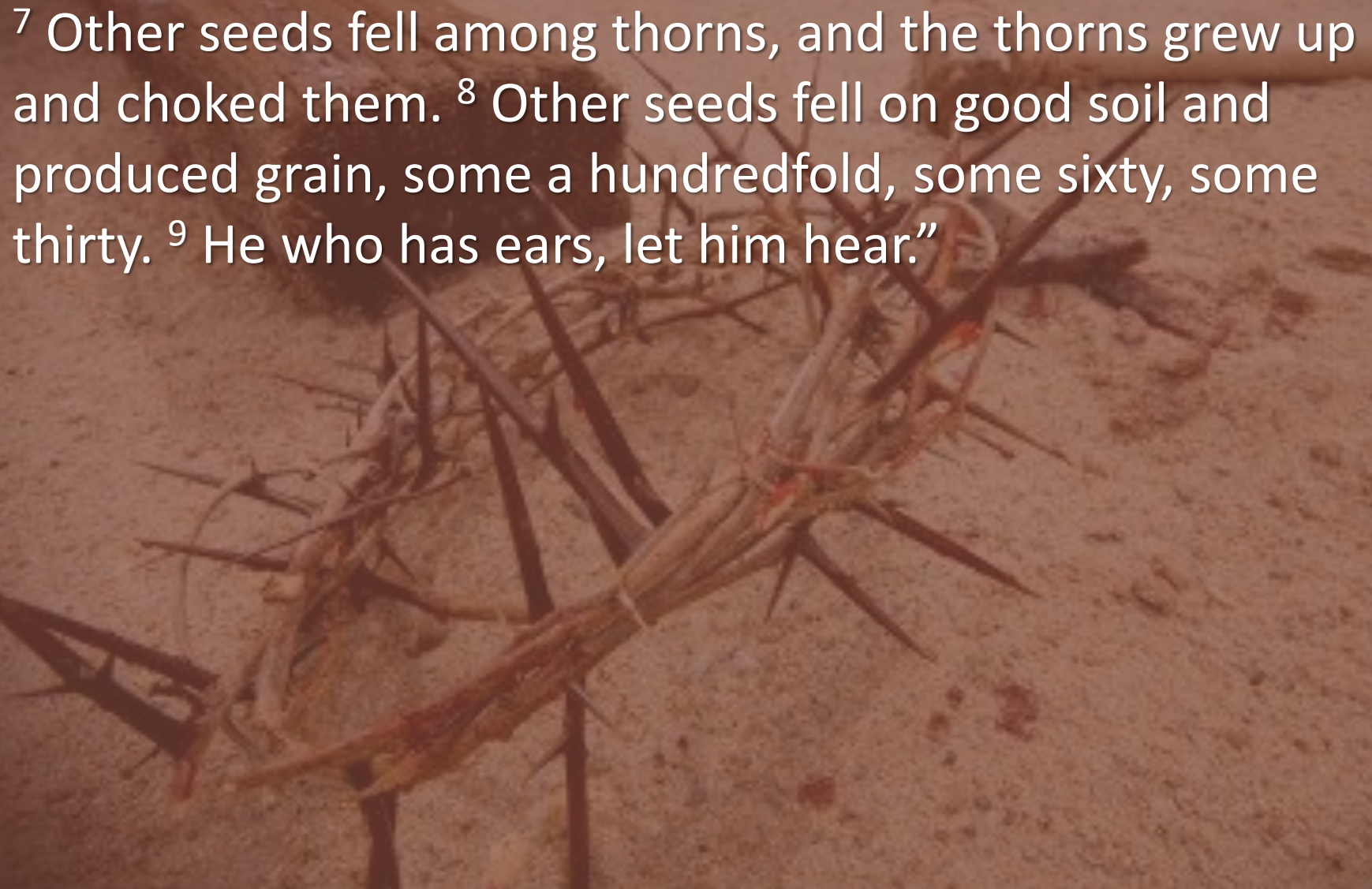
b) Soil Conditions Matter – Matt 13:3-9

“And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.

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⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.”



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18-23 “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word,

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but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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- truth can be missed and lost
- truth needs to take root – maturity matters
- culture can choke out – weeds grow
- huge reward for tending the truth

Tips for Keeping Aware

a) Intentional about awareness

- looking at daytimers, finances, establishing pattern of reviewing

b) Good read of my Heart & Treasure issue

- God 1st the biblical mandate

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- Matt 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- Luke 6:45 "The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

c) Pick the Weeds

- see the besetting sins, adjust environment
- practice repentance

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3. Follow Through with Others

- good intentions – big deal
- changing patterns – following through matters
- values consistently modeled – caught
- world understands importance

a) Biblical Community Matters

- one another statements
- clear the body needs parts to work

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- Romans 12:3-8 “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

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b) Maturity and Roots matter

- Eph. 4:14-15 “so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

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Tips for Living in Community

a) Check your Posture

- humility
- teachable – understand opinion vs. influence
- servant heart – taker vs giver
- gratitude & recognition

b) Check your Markers

- am I serving or simply taking
- am I extending grace to difficult and disappointing, or am I holding things against

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So What?

1. We are recipients of God's Grace in Jesus
2. We all have alignment issues
3. This is a road to travel, not a single decision
4. There is help for traveling the road
 - review the tips
 - discuss with those ahead on the path
5. Be willing to make changes