





HOW MUCH FORGIVENESS?

MATTHEW 18:21-35



“The surest mark of any true conversion is humility. It is when we humble ourselves and trust Jesus alone to save us that we can be sure we are converted.”

- J. C. Ryle



“We all agree that forgiveness
is a beautiful idea until we
have to practice it.”

- C. S. Lewis



MAIN THING:

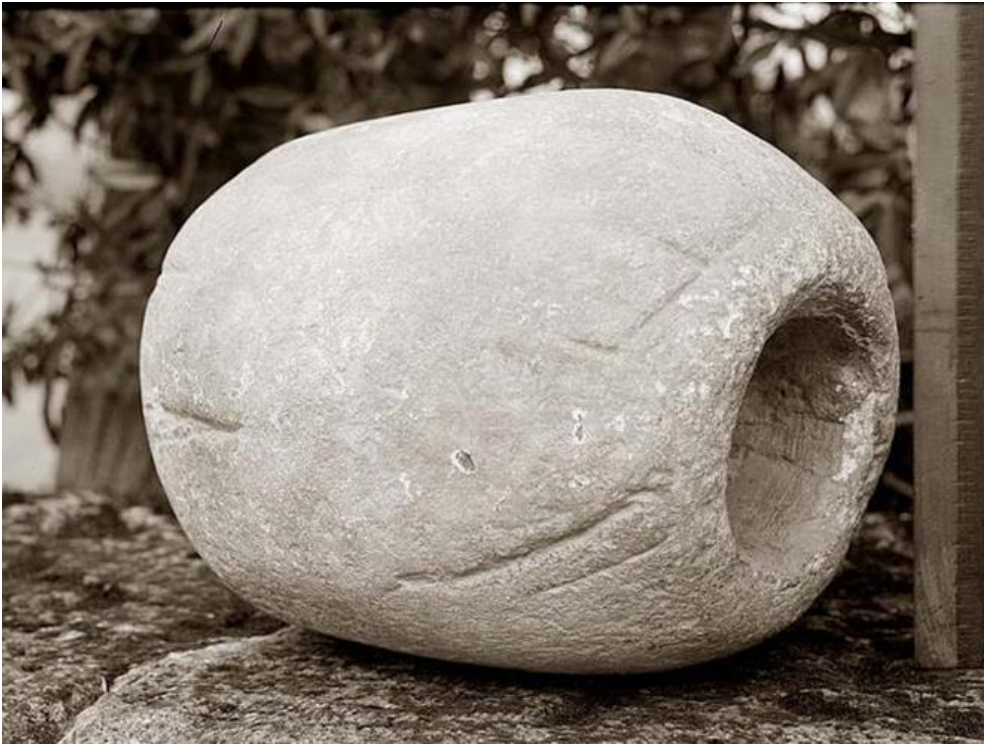
FOR THE CHRISTIAN,
FORGIVENESS IS
UNLIMITED.

Psalm
130:3&4

“If You, LORD, were to
keep *account of* guilty
deeds, Lord, who
could stand?
⁴ But there is forgiveness
with You,
So that You may
be revered.”

“Forgiveness reflects the highest human virtue because it reflects the character of God. A person who forgives is a person who emulates godly character. Nothing so demonstrates God’s love as His forgiveness. A person who does not forgive is therefore a person who is lacking in godly character and without Christ-like love, no matter how orthodox his theology or how outwardly impeccable his morals appear to be. An unforgiving Christian is a living contradiction of his new nature in Christ.”

- J. MacArthur



A talent was a unit of measurement for weighing precious metals, usually gold and silver.



Isaiah
1:18

“Come now, and let
us debate *your case*,”
Says the LORD,
“Though your sins are as
scarlet,
They shall become as white
as snow;
Though they are red like
crimson,
They shall be like wool.”

Micah
7:18&19

“Who is a God like You, who pardons wrongdoing

And passes over a rebellious act of the remnant of His possession?

He does not retain His anger forever,
Because He delights in mercy.

¹⁹ He will again take pity on us;
He will trample on our wrongdoings.

Yes, You will cast all their sins
Into the depths of the sea.”



(Motivation)

1. To be ever mindful of my debt of sin and the extent of God's forgiveness.

Ephesians
4:32

“Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”


Ephesians
4:32

“And when you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings, ¹⁴ having canceled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”




(Motivation)

II. To be unforgiving is to be unchristian.




“The Bible is not saying that it’s *easy* to forgive or that it’s *natural* to forgive; however, it is *Christian* to forgive.”

- Expos. Commentary



“The most miserable prison in the world is the prison we make for ourselves when we refuse to show mercy and forgive. Our thoughts become shackled, our emotions are chained, the will is almost paralyzed. But when we show mercy, all of these bonds are broken, and we enter into a joyful liberty that frees us to share God’s love with others.”

- Warren Wiersbe



“Forgiveness is the key which unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness.”

- Corrie Ten Boom