

CrossWalk notes

The Kingdom

The Way into the Kingdom

March 19, 2023 / Dan Solofra

How can I balance forgiveness and justice?

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. **Matthew 18:21-22, NIV**

Forgiveness is the problematic _____ of Christianity.

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. **Matthew 18:23-25, NIV**

Forgiveness is _____ in my relationship with God.

My sin debt is _____ and _____.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. **Matthew 18:26-27, NIV**

God has _____ my debt of sin.

But forgiveness always comes at a _____.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed

him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ ³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. **Matthew 18:28-30, NIV**

We say we want justice, but really want _____.

This person wanted _____ for the offender.

³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’ ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” **Matthew 18:31-35, NIV**

Forgiveness means I will not constantly bring up the issue to that _____, to other _____, or to _____.

Forgiveness comes from lots of _____ and _____.

I will forgive like God has forgiven me.

MEMORY VERSE

²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. **Matthew 18:27, NIV**

My next step: Jesus has canceled my sin debt. God’s justice and love were on full display on the cross to pay for my sin. I will pursue forgiveness and justice in my relationships.

What’s your next step?

Mark it on your communication card.