

# Debt Relief

## Matthew 18:21-35

### ***Getting Started***

Why do you think forgiveness is so difficult

### ***Digging In***

1. **Read Matthew 18:21-22.** Jesus' teaching on repentance and restoration prompted Peter's question on forgiveness. Do you think Peter's suggestion sounds harsh or generous? Why?
2. Paraphrase Jesus' response in v. 22.
3. **Read Matthew 18:23-34.** Write a brief summary of the parable. *So there's this king ...*
4. This was a huge debt – one that the servant could never hope to repay. How did the king respond to his plea for mercy?
5. How did the servant respond to his fellow-servant's plea for mercy?
6. What did the other servants do when they saw what had happened?
7. Paraphrase the king's response in vv. 32-34.
8. What is the key principle Jesus is teaching in this parable? (cf. Colossians 3:13)
9. What do you think Jesus is saying in v. 35?
  - How is forgiveness a distinguishing mark of God's people?
  - How does a lack of forgiveness undercut our fellowship with God?



### ***Getting Personal***

- Discuss the suggestions under ***How Do We Forgive?*** in the sermon notes. Which of these do you think might be the most helpful to you as you seek to fully forgive from the heart those who have hurt you?
- From your personal experience, what have you discovered that has been helpful in learning to forgive?
- Is there any bitterness hidden away in your heart – against another person (even if that person has moved away or passed away)? Against God?
- Is there someone you need to forgive? In obedient faith, by God's grace – do it today.