

## SERMON-BASED STUDY: THAT GUY

**Matthew 18:21-35, ESV** – <sup>21</sup> Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup> “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> 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.’ <sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup> So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

**Ephesians 4:26-27, 29, 31-32, ESV** – <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

### Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 In Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus' parable concerns debts, something that can be measured in units of money. How do we see sins or offenses as being similar to debts?
  
- 2 How is the king's response to the first servant "above and beyond" what the servant is asking for? Does it have anything to do with the servant's ability to make good on his promise? How are we like the servant when we approach God? How is God's response similar to the king's in the parable?
  
- 3 How did the king's mercy toward the first servant impact that servant's willingness to forgive the second servant? How does your experience of God's mercy impact your willingness to forgive others?

## DIGGING DEEPER

- A** **Colossians 3:12-15, ESV** – <sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
- 4 Looking at the passage above, what does Paul mean by "put on" compassionate hearts, kindness, etc.? Why does he start with the heart?
  
  - 5 What does it mean to 'bear with one another'? Why is forgiving each other connected with bearing with one another?
  
  - 6 Why is love referred to as that "which binds everything together in perfect harmony"?

**B** *Proverbs 19:11, ESV – <sup>11</sup> Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.*

*Proverbs 14:29-30, ESV – <sup>29</sup> Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly. <sup>30</sup> A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.*

**7** How does anger affect our relationships with others? How does it affect ourselves?

**8** What is “good sense”? How does good sense make a person slow to anger?

**9** What is the connection between a tranquil heart and overlooking an offense? How is overlooking an offense considered a person’s glory?

## TAKING IT HOME

With whom have you or do you struggle to extend forgiveness? How can Jesus’ parable motivate you or guide you in that relationship? What is one thing you will do this week to extend mercy and forgiveness to another person as you’ve received it through Christ? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you strive to be people of grace and forgiveness.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matthew 6:14-15

Mark 11:25

Romans 12:9-21

Hebrews 12:15