

When Judgment Is Without Mercy

Promise: God promises continued mercy to the one who shows mercy

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Gen 50:15-21; Psa 103:1-12; Rom 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

(16th Su after Pent (Pr 19), 9/17/23)

For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. – James 2:13

Lead In – In the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray, the fifth petition is: “And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” And lest there be any ambiguity about it, immediately after giving the seven petitions to the prayer, Jesus offers this commentary in Matthew 6:14-15... We can only conclude that Jesus held this petition to be vitally important!

I. Attention To Who Has The Lead Role in Scripture

- A. There is a grand narrative and it all points to...
- B. It is important to read ourselves into the frame...
- C. The Theo-Drama is so much more exciting than the...

II. The Theo-Drama in the Unforgiving Servant

- A. I would hope we would all know who the king is...
- B. The plot, the tension, the dilemma in the play...
- C. Important for us to see ourselves in least flattering...

III. So, Is Forgiveness Onto Life Eternal Conditional?

- A. Before hastily saying God’s love is unconditional....
- B. God is Love, and God also loves first, and ever...
- C. What is conditional is a beneficial reception...

Final Word – Why would our Lord leave us with this parable if there were not the awful danger that the incredible and undeserved mercy planted in our lives did not find its intended fruition in our becoming merciful channels of mercy to others! As the Apostle Paul writes in Romans 14:10: “For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.” Pay careful attention as to why the first servant was called wicked! It wasn’t because of his incredible debt. No, it was because of his refusal to forgive his fellow servant! Just so we are to learn and be forewarned that God’s judgment will be without mercy to the one who shows no mercy. And so, we continue steadfastly and repeatedly to pray, And forgive us our trespasses, as...

Mt 6:14-15 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Jn 5:39-40 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

Hans Ur Van Balthasar: “We live an Ego-Drama when everything we do revolves around ourselves and no one else; on the contrary, we live a Theo-Drama whenever everything we do revolves around God.”

He 4:13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Ro 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death.

Matthew 18:21-35 ESV

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²¹ 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?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “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. 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. 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.”

1 Ti 1:15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

1Jn 4:8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Ro 5:8 But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1Jn 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

Ro 4:10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

Heavenly Father, You paid the debt for our sins on the Cross and have freely forgiven us a debt that we could never repay. Help us never to forget this, nor forget how much You desire that this forgiveness be extended to others. Forgive us for our lack of mercy toward others and assist us in forgiving others lest we incur Your judgment for failing to show mercy. Lord God, may the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts... Amen.