



## 1. Introduction

a. Several Old Testament verses

- Exod 32:32 Moses asks God to forgive Israel's sin

- 1 Kings 8:34 Ask God to forgive

- Ps 86:5 For the Lord is good, & ready to forgive, merciful.

b. Mt 9:6 Son of Man has power to forgive

## 2. Forgive Other People

a. Lord's Prayer: forgive our debts of sins as we forgive others

b. Mt 6:12-15 mutual forgiveness - conditional promise

c. Peter asks Jesus (Mt 18:21-22)

- how many times to forgive sins against you by other people? 7 times?

\* Peter tries to be generous

\* question really about limits to forgiveness

- Jesus ~~asks~~ tells Peter to be much more generous with his forgiveness

\* rather  $70 \times 7 = 490$  times

\* after 10 times you lose count

\* Jesus is not giving a scoreboard count

### 3. God's Forgiveness

a. Parable of magnitude (size) of forgiveness between master & servants (Mt 18: 23-34)

- a kingdom with a ruler
- one servant owed king
  - \* 10,000 talents = 60 million days of work
  - \* greater sum than 1 man's lifetime
- king forgave the debt
- forgiven servant found 2nd other servant who owed him 100 pence
  - \* 100 pence = 4 month's wages (or 120 days of work)
  - \* 1st servant had 2nd servant put into debtor's prison
  - \* 1st servant would not forgive 2nd servant

b. Results of unforgiveness

- Mt 18: 31-34
  - \* word comes back to the king of injustice done
  - \* king investigated 1st servant speaking with him
  - \* 1st servant lost forgiveness revoked

c. God's view of unforgiveness (Mt 18: 35)

- God the Father in heaven will not forgive you when (if)
  - \* conditional event
- Christian fails to forgive from your heart? \* God will not forgive you
- Christian forgives Christian brother from the heart?
  - \* God the Father forgives them