



Topic Stewardship – Forgiveness and Mercy

Introduction

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. 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, cancelled the debt and let him go. 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. 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 cancelled 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."

In this session I want to continue with the topic of stewardship and what Jesus Christ did for us at the cross of Calvary. In the last session we talked about Jesus becoming a curse on our behalf because the Law brings a curse and as we saw last session was that curse is death or separation from God.

In this session I want to talk about the Mercy and forgiveness that Jesus Christ paid for on the cross of Calvary.

Just as a show of hands is this topic on Stewardship something new or did you know about this?

You see the Bible is such a wonderful manual for life and if you are willing and obedient you will receive a supernatural blessing directly from God. Jesus Christ paid a very high price to redeem you from sin.



The Power of the Law is sin

One thing I did not say in the last session is to explain where sin comes from and why sin has power over us? Does anyone here want to take a guess?

We all know that sin originated in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobey God's commandment. So anytime we disobey the commandments of God we are sinning? Do you agree?

So why does the Law have a say over us and why does the Law say we are sinners. How can it do that?

Did you know that the one thing that makes us aware of sin is the Law?, **Romans 3:19-20** *"¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin."*

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 *"⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

So the Law, the 10 commandments, and the other 615 Levitical laws and other laws, they all we put in place by God to make us aware that we have sinned or missed God's perfect will.

All sin really means is to miss the mark. I am supposed to aim at the hedge there but instead I aim somewhere else and miss the mark I am supposed to hit!

So sin comes from Adam and Eve who did not obey the commandment of God, then God gave man the Law so that they can have something to aim at, so they we could see what God consider the perfect blameless life to aim at, but sadly no one could ever obtain that mark of perfection and so billions of sheep, doves, goats and cattle were slaughtered and sacrificed to cleans people and make the people right with God.

But that was not enough, as we tried harder and harder to hit the mark of perfect, we realised we are not able to hit God's mark of perfect because the Law just made us more conscious of our sin and that we are sinners.

And so we became separated from God and many people just gave up because fallen man was never able to deal with their sin, and as I said before our sin has separated us from God and our sin has given death its power over us!



I want you to understand that God has always had a plan for our sin debt, since the foundation of the world. And that plan of God was to send Jesus Christ, His only SON, to this sinful and dying world, at the right time so that He could come to earth a man, be tempted in every way we are as a man, and yet remain sinless as a man. So His sinless life as a man was the ultimate sacrifice to pay the requirement of the Law – which I have already told you was death!

Without Christ's death, sin is the sting of death and those of us who die outside of Christ and His sacrifice will be separated from God for every in a place we call hell.

Forgiveness

One of the most important things Christ did for you at His death on the cross was to purchase on your behalf, forgiveness! Forgiveness from ALL your sins. You past sins, your present sins and your future sins were all paid from the moment you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour.

So that now God has nothing against you, and Satan can never accuse you anymore before God because your sin debt was complete paid. The just requirements of the Law were fully met in Christ Jesus.

So Satan's power over you is completely nullified! His accusation of you is rendered powerless because all traces of your past, present or future sin is TOTALLY erase through Jesus Christ's Blood! Amen!

Colossians 2:12-13 says it like this - *¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the un-circumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross."*

Amen, let us stand and just praise God for His great mercy and thank Jesus Christ for dying for us on the cross and paying the FULL price for our sins!

Mercy

The next thing that Jesus did for you by His death was to obtain mercy for you. Your sins, your disobedience, your rebellion towards God and your life make you deserve death and hell, but Jesus Christ in His mercy forgave us and showed us mercy. He washed a totally clean by His Blood so that we are blameless, spotless and totally without sin!



Mercy means to get something you do not deserve.

Tell the story of the traffic fine and the judge

God is a merciful God, showing mercy to everyone who will come to Him through Jesus Christ. God's mercy is free and anyone who will approach His throne with confidence will receive mercy – what we do not deserve!

Hebrews 4:15-16 says *"¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

So we must understand Jesus Christ died for our sins, and forgave us of our sins and gave us mercy - the opposite of what we deserve – we deserve death and hell but He gave us forgiveness, love and peace instead.

So when you do sin and fall short of God plan and purpose we can boldly come to Him, in other words, we come in FATIH to God's throne and receive what we do not deserve, unlimited mercy.

Forgive others

So you may be asking, Pastor Martin why are you telling me all this? It is good news and it is good to know this but what has this got to do with Stewardship? How do I apply these two concepts of forgiveness and mercy to Stewardship?

I am so glad you asked this question because you will remember that Stewardship is you looking after something that someone has entrusted to your care! It can be anything, a car, house, money, animals and in this case forgiveness and mercy.

Jesus Christ has done all this for us, He has paid a heavy price for your TOTAL forgiveness and for you to received mercy in the place of judgement.

So God wants you to show this mercy and forgiveness, which you have received in Jesus Christ to others. To be good stewards of Forgiveness and Mercy

It really does not matter who it is that you must forgive and who you must show mercy too. It also does not matter what they did to you God want you to show them the forgiveness and mercy, just as you received forgiveness and mercy through Jesus Christ.



God is speaking to everyone here and asking you to become a steward of His mercy and forgiveness. Will you forgive everyone who has hurt you? Will you forgive unconditionally whatever anyone has done to you, whether intentionally or unintentionally?

Will you show them God's forgiveness and mercy that they do not deserve, just like God showed you forgiveness and mercy which you did not deserve?

Just as that man who owed the king billions of kwachas in debt and the king forgave him unconditionally and released him in mercy from the debt he owed, but when the king found out he would not forgive another person's debt of 10,000 kwachas that was owed, that king put him in a very bad place.

I want to close this session with two scriptures one on Forgiveness and one on mercy. They are both warnings which I want you to note of:

Ephesians 4:31-32 *³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

James 2:12-14 *¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment. ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?"*

Closing

So as we close this session, I want us all to bow our heads and all eyes closed. Please I want no one looking at me or looking around this is a time between you and God.

Forget the person next to you, they will be there next you but forget them for now, let us focus on God and ourselves – on our own lives.

God is shining a light into your life, have you been a good steward of forgiveness and mercy? Do you have anyone who has made you so angry that you do not want to speak to them, you feel you cannot forgive them and you do not want to show them mercy and forgiveness because they do not deserve it.



I want to ask you for your health and you soul sake, please forgive them right now. Say to God I release them, speak out their names and forgive them and show them mercy just like God has forgiven you and shown you mercy for you sins and short comings.

Please be very careful, God has forgiven you of a debt that you could never pay and shown you mercy instead of wrath. He is asking you today to forgive and have mercy on that person today and to unconditionally show them forgiveness and mercy even if you feel they do not deserve it, God know they do need you to set them free, right now.

No questions asked, God knows how they hurt you, but for your sake He wants you to forgive them and set them and yourself free. So right now set them free – speak out forgiveness and mercy over them, release them for what they did to you – in Jesus Name!

Let's pray