

Intro: escaping our hate

Bible: Matthew 18:21-35 // 8 THOUGHTS

1) THE KING OF GRACE WANTS TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS - v23

He first loved us. Tozer’s “prevenient drawing”. God comes after us. Romans 3: The wages of sin is _____. The King wants to settle accounts - the number 1 grace of the Kingdom of heaven.

2) EXPECT SH TO ALWAYS ENCOUNTER HH - v24

The US was brought into the presence of the MK. A clash of kingdoms. Our SH doesn't guarantee the SH in others. SH remains SH regardless. Expect rejection. Expect misunderstanding. It's about your heart before Christ. **It's your freedom.**

3) WE'D REALLY LIKE TO SELF-JUSTIFY - vv25-26

The US wasn't asking for grace or mercy (they weren't his language) he wanted more time to be able to pay back. Ignorance. Pride. A talent represented 20 years work. And there were 10'000 of them. **That = 5 billion pounds.** Even as believers we can go on thinking that paying back is better than receiving mercy.

4) JESUS IS MOVED WITH EXTREME COMPASSION - v27

Greek for “took pity” = **SPLAGCHNIZOMAI** - moved in the inner parts. Not a surface ‘taking pity’. Like **Geoff and Anna** or **Catherine and Hannah**. Moved with compassion. **Like the Good Samaritan in Luke 10** or the helpless multitudes without a Shepherd in Matthew 9.

5) BEING RELIEVED ONCE UPON A TIME ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH - v28

A short walk from his kneeling position before the MK, the US forgot the infinite mercy he'd been offered (he hadn't received in his heart) and moved to throttle his servant who owed him relatively little. **LIKE THE STUPIDITY OF HOMER SIMPSON.** The US was presumably relieved but he wasn't in awe. WE MUST RECEIVE MERCY AND BE IN AWE.

6) LACK OF CHRISTIAN MERCY SHOULD DISTRESS US - v31

The distress of those who saw the US in action. We should be outraged when we see this in ourselves and in others. “...we should make it our constant practice to forgive injuries, and should accustom ourselves to it till it becomes **habitual**” **Matthew Henry**

7) HEART DIAGRAM - THE DISTRESS & ANXIETY OF HH & HF

MYOGENIC//The effect of a STENT? CABG? - SET FREE!!!!

King Jesus wants His subjects to be **completely** free from HH; He wants us to operate at full capacity! Like...the human body in its prime...like the human mind at its clearest...like the Starship Enterprise at full warp...like Andy Murray without injury...like Usain Bolt smashing world records...like Mo Farrah running his very best...like the mighty Liverpool destroying United at Old Trafford!!!

The redeemed, human heart completely soft and at maximal health. cf. **CHAIR EXERCISES, BREATHLESSNESS & ANXIETY of HF.**

8) A TIME WILL COME WHEN IT'LL BE TOO LATE - vv21-22 cf. v 35.

The exhausted mercy of the MK. Is this a huge contraction of the parable? The MK ultimately not extending mercy. No, it's a picture of the end of the age and the Judgment Seat of Christ.

James 2:12-13: “**Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”**