

# Sin and Forgiveness (Matthew 18:15-35)

- A. If Your Brother Sins (15-20)
- B. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (21-35)

"There is no pit so deep that God is not deeper still."

# Introduction

- Chapter 18: 4<sup>th</sup> Discourse on the Church
  - Childlike Humility as the Greatest Virtue
  - Brotherly Love: Sin-Discipline-Forgiveness
- God's Solution to Sin Problem and the Church
  - "Jesus" -- "He will save his people from their \_\_\_\_"
  - Isaiah 59:1-2 Sin, Confession and Redemption
  - Love chapter (1Cor 13) and Church Discipline
    - No record of wrongs? How about discipline?
    - How many times Forgive? [ "Seventy-Seven times" (Seventy times seven) Vengeance Gen 4:24; cf. Sermon on the Mount and Luke 23:34]

# If Your Brother Sins (15-20)

- Sin Problems and the Church
  - Sin-Justice-Forgiveness [Repentance? Psychological Interpretation]
  - Need of Discipline (Heb 12:10-11)
    - Church Discipline and Pastoral Care
    - Accountability
- 1. Church Discipline: Purpose & Process (15-17)
- 2. Authority of Pastoral Decision (18)
- 3. Power of United Prayer (19-20)

# The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (21-35)

- ❖ How Many Times Shall I Forgive? (21-22)
- The Parable of the Kingdom (23-34)
  - One Talent=6,000 Drachmas/Denarii = 20 years' wages
  - Part 1: King Cancels 10,000 Talents of Debt of a Servant
  - Part 2: The Forgiven Servant Will Not Forgive 100 Denarii of Debt of his Fellow Servant
- Responses of Other Servants and the King (31, 32-34)
- Unless You Forgive Your Brother from Your Heart (35) [cf. Matt 6:12, 14-15; Luke 17:3-4]
- “Not Seven times, But Seventy-Seven times (Seventy times seven)” (22)

# Applications: Forgiving Heart

## ❖ Christmas Message—"Jesus"

- God's Tender Mercy (Luke 1:77-79; Matt 1:21, 23)
- The Gospel of God's Grace: "Forgiveness of Sins" (Eternal Redemption in Christ)
- Believers' Response: Faith and Love and Hope

## ❖ Corrie ten Boom--"The Hiding Place" [How to Forgive](#)

- Simon Wiesenthal: "The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness"
- cf. Small Grudges/Resentments; Murder-Suicide etc. (Where is True Love and Forgiveness?)