

(continued from front page)

the debt (vs. 27). The servant, however, was cruel and showed no mercy to someone who owed him but a small fraction of what he had owed the king (vss.28-30).

Matt 18:32-35, "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me. 33'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?' 34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. 35 "So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

What's the lesson from Jesus in this parable? It was certainly a lesson on forgiving others. However, He was also teaching us what it cost God to forgive us of our sins. We sometimes just expect to be forgiven by God, yet we are short-sighted when it comes to how we treat one another. The forgiveness that comes from following Christ should change the way we live.

— Shane Williams

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Bible Class 9:45am
Morning Worship 10:45am
Evening Worship 5:30pm

Wednesday:

Bible Class 7:30pm

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The Lilbourn Light



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" -Psalm 119:105



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An Enormous Debt

Every year, some US citizens make donations to help reduce the \$8 trillion national debt. Since the government began accepting gifts for that purpose in 1961, more than \$52 million has been given. That's a lot of money in most people's book but it hardly scratches the surface of the debt.

How much is \$8 trillion? As an example, if you had \$1 trillion and spent \$1 million a day— \$365 million a year— it would take almost 3,000 years to spend all the money. Now multiply that by eight!

The servant in the parable of Matthew 18 had an enormous debt

(10,000 talents- possibly \$10 million). It was so great that the king wanted the servant, his wife, his children, and all he owned to be sold as payment (v.25).

He asked for more time and promised to repay all he owed (v.26).

Matt 18:26, "The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.'"

However, the amount was so huge that there was absolutely no way he could pay it all back. So the king had compassion on him and forgave

(continued on back page)

Looking For Gain In Loss

It was evil men and not God who threw the apostle Paul into prison, hoping to put an end to his preaching. Their plan backfired, however, and the gospel spread (Phil. 1:12-13).

Phil. 1:12-13, *“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;”*

I suppose Paul didn't know why God allowed his imprisonment but he saw how God used it for good. It was *“For the furtherance of the gospel.”* Also **vs. 14,** *“and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”*

Sometimes people find themselves in places or situations they don't understand. Perhaps

wrongly accused & in prison, suffering or dying from a Disease, loss of a loved one, etc. Many spend their time trying to understand their circumstances, often questioning “why” things happen the way they do.

We may never know “why” bad things happen to us. However, we must have confidence in God's overall plan.

The best that we can do in any circumstance is to focus on being right with the Lord.

The best that we can do in any circumstance is to focus on being right with the Lord. When

we do that, whether things are going good or bad in our life, our focus will be where it belongs. As one wise person once said, *“We cannot control the wind, but we can adjust our sails.”*

— Shane Williams

Interested in taking a Bible Study Course through the mail? Write or E-mail us at the address on the back.



Taking the Cross

We see the cross today as the jagged, wooden instrument used in putting to death Jesus Christ our Savior. Yet before His followers had even a slight idea that Jesus would die by that manner, Jesus spoke of the cross.

As He stood near the Sea of Galilee, He prepared the disciples to teach *“the lost sheep of the house of Israel”* (Mt. 10:6). Jesus told them, *“He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me”* (v.38).

These men did not connect the cross with Jesus' approaching death but they did know what a cross signified. Crucifixions were a common method of execution. The disciples had a vivid picture of the agony, punishment, and misery death by a cross represented. Taking a cross meant walking and enduring life's toughest road.

So why was Jesus promoting cross-bearing? Because He

wanted disciples who were willing to face the difficulties it would take to serve His cause. It would not be long before Jesus would be killed and His disciples would have to carry on His message. To stand against the forces that would seek to put an end to the gospel would take total commitment.

“He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me” (v.38).

Is not that still our challenge today? Are we willing to take the cross and serve Christ in total commitment? The mission is great but it is everlastingly rewarding.

— Shane Williams

God's Plan for Saving Man

- ⇒ Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:17)
- ⇒ Believe the Gospel (Hebrews 11:6; John 20:31)
- ⇒ Repent of Past Sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30)
- ⇒ Confess Faith in Christ (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32)
- ⇒ Be Baptized in water (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:27; I Pet. 3:21)
- ⇒ Be Faithful until/ unto Death (Rev. 2:10)