

- Matthew 18:28

A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants

You wicked servant!

I forgave you all that
debt because you
pleaded with me.



And should not you have had
mercy on your fellow servant,
as I had mercy on you?



Matthew 18:32-34

- Matthew 18:32-33 (ESV) 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'

A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants



So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you,
if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.



Matthew 8:35

- 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.



- Failure to Forgive is wickedness.
- To forgive is to be merciful, like my Father.
- Forgiveness must be genuine.



**Failure to
forgive is
wickedness.**

- “You wicked servant” (32)
 - Servant vs. Master: I like to think I’m above/greater than then one who sinned against me.
 - Wicked
 - seizing, choke
 - Aggressive and Belligerent
- 30: He refused!
 - I just can’t forgive

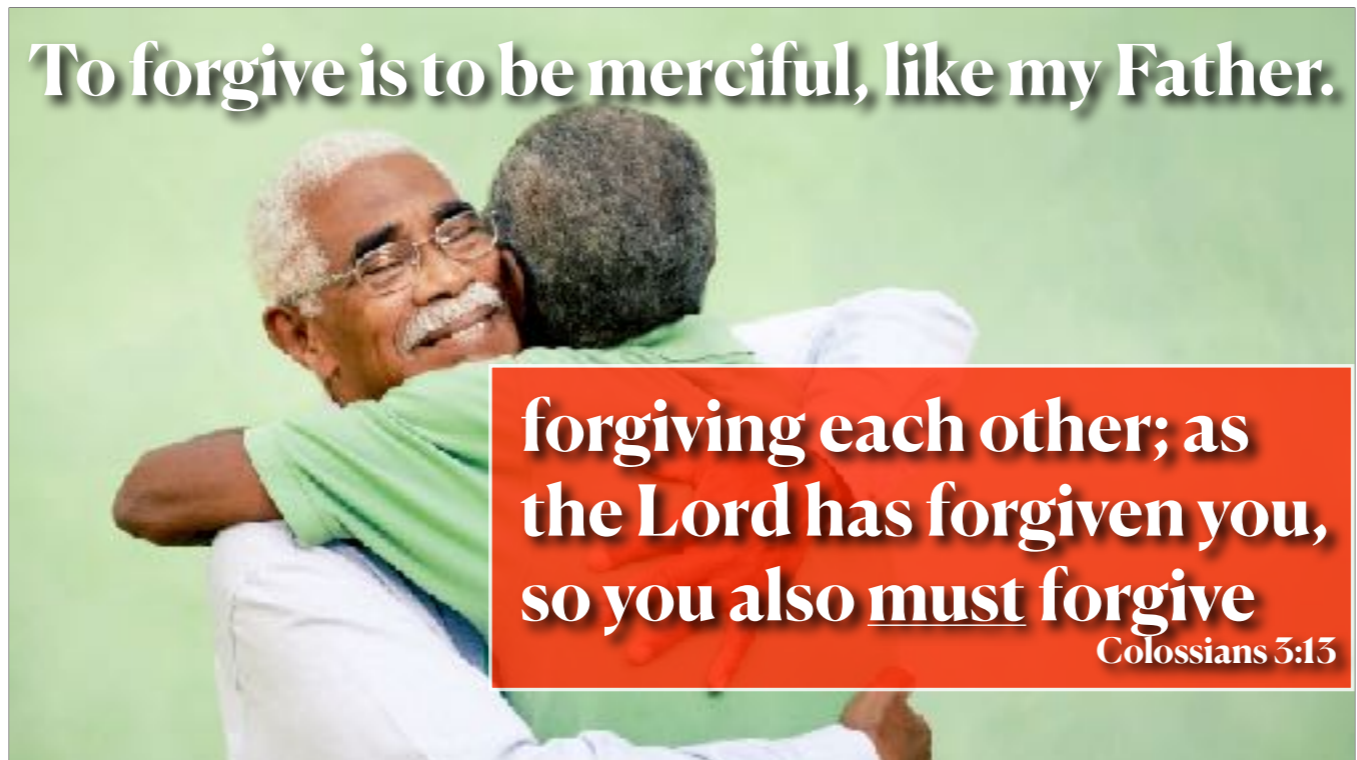


- Things that Prevent (Impede) forgiveness
 - Holding on to anger
 - Thinking of self (moral superiority!)
 - Judging
 - Seeking “fairness”
 - Repayment

To forgive is to be merciful, like my Father.



- To forgive is to be merciful, like my Father.
 - pity and mercy vs. repay and anger and violence
- Do I have compassion on my brother who sins against me?
 - Worldly reaction is anger
 - results in wickedness
 - Doesn't help anyone
 - When we fail to pity...
 - Is it because I forget the pity I've been shown?
 - We fail to appreciate our Father's pity?
 - We fail to imitate our Father's pity?
 - Becomes more difficult with repeated sins ... 3, 7, 490 (Peter's question)
 - What do I do with that compassion?



- Colossians 3:13 — bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- New self ... put on
 - Lack of forgiveness is to be trapped in the thinking of the world, of the old self.
 - Transformed!
- Note the imperative.
- Our example to follow is God himself! Psalm 103

To forgive is to be merciful, like my Father.



▷ **merciful
& gracious**

▷ **slow to
anger**

▷ **abounding in
steadfast love**

- Psalm 103
 - Why does God forgive us (8-14)
 - Character: merciful and gracious; slow to anger; abounding in steadfast love
 - Dealing with my:
 - Fears — not keep anger forever; does not repay.
 - Sins — great steadfast love
 - Weakness — compassion, knows frame, dust
- To forgive my brother, I must be moved by these same qualities
 - The first servant approached his fellow servant with only anger ... nothing was solved.
 - The King was moved by pity and was merciful ...



- Going beyond forgiveness (3-5)

To forgive is to be merciful, like my Father.



▷ **heals**

- Going beyond forgiveness (3-5)
 - Heals
 - they did wrong to me, which hurts — yet they have wounds too.
 - I need to look at them with compassion, see hurts caused to self by own sin and do what I can to help them
 - nurse them back to health.

To forgive is to be merciful, like my Father.



▷ **heals**

▷ **redeems**

- Going beyond forgiveness (3-5)
 - Redeems
 - Bring them out of darkness, sorrow, fear, agony.
 - When you have sinned against someone — were you not terrified of what would happen?

To forgive is to be merciful, like my Father.



- ▷ **heals**
- ▷ **redeems**
- ▷ **crowns**

- Going beyond forgiveness (3-5)
 - Crowns
 - blesses
 - works to restore relationship fully
 - no grudges, no despising, no holding love in reserve
 - I must honor them by how I treat them and think of them

To forgive is to be merciful, like my Father.



- ▷ **heals**
- ▷ **redeems**
- ▷ **crowns**
- ▷ **satisfies**

- Going beyond forgiveness (3-5)
 - Satisfies
 - don't leave them empty, sorrowful, guilty
 - 2 Corinthians 2:7 — so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.
 - do good, provide for them to grow
 - leave them with no doubt that they are not only forgiven, but have a brother on their side in times of need.

Forgiveness must be genuine.



- Forgiveness must be genuine.
- Too often our forgiveness is conditional and comes with strings attached and full of reservations.

Forgiveness must be genuine.



- Matthew 18:21 — Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”
 - As long as we are counting ... when does the genuineness of our forgiveness stop?
 - Authentic forgiveness is more than just saying “It’s okay,” “No worries,” or “Never mind.”
 - It must not be something just said ... then dismissed.
 - Jesus is telling Peter that he must forgive his brother.
- Context: Gain Your brother
 - Matthew 18:15 — “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

Forgiveness must be genuine.



- Romans 12:9 Let love be genuine.
- 10 Love one another with brotherly affection.
- 20-21 (ESV) 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”
21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.



- How can I be better at forgiveness?
 - Him not me
 - gaining a brother
 - Understand their fears.



- Love removes sin
 - Approach with Great love
 - Don't dwell on my anger over their sin.
 - Don't pursue vengeance/reparations
 - Don't seek fairness.



- Compassion understands weaknesses
 - Remember they are frail/human
 - SHOW compassion (not just feeling, doing)
 - Don't have too high of expectations
- Follow Through
 - heals, redeems, crowns, satisfies



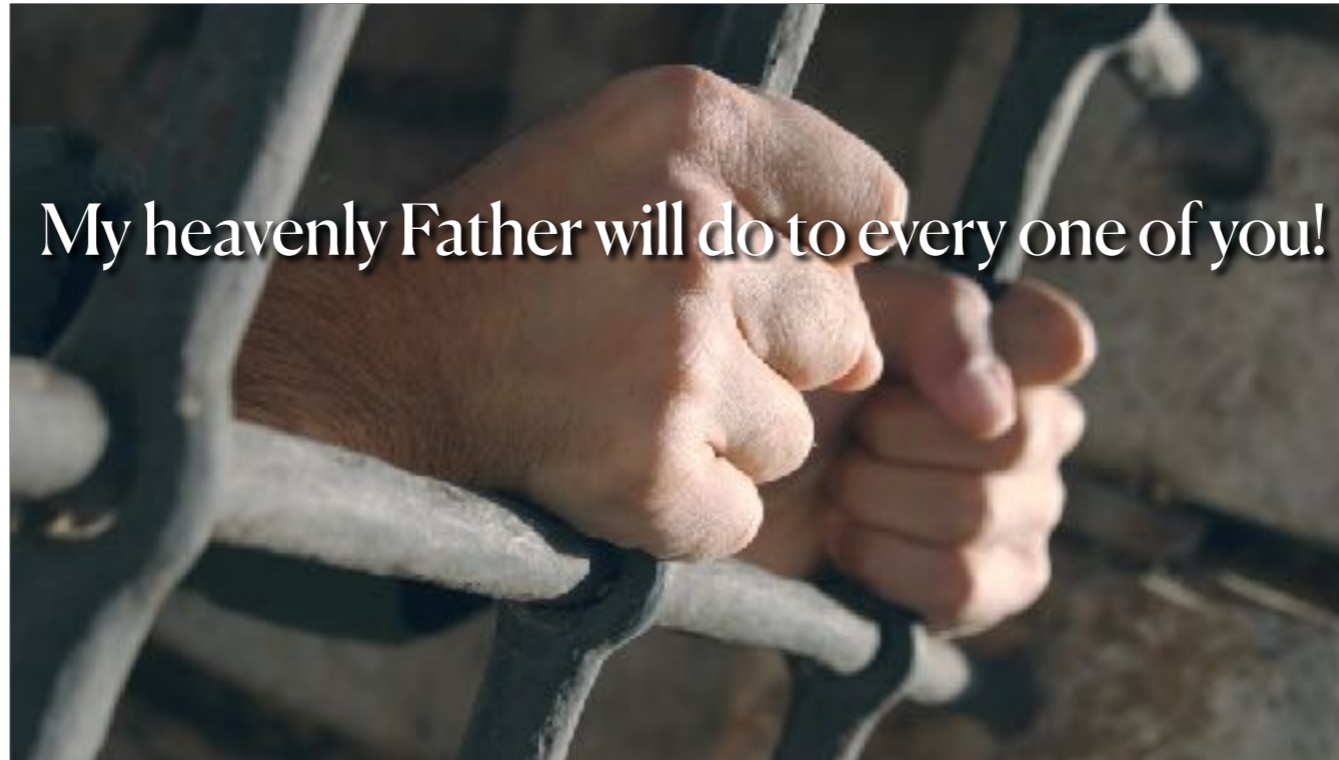
- Forgiveness is HARD (real)
 - We want vengeance
 - We want justice
 - We want "fairness" (usually as defined by myself)
 - We want the sinner to suffer as we have
 - We want thing to return to normal for us -- as if it never happened
 - These are all essentially selfish



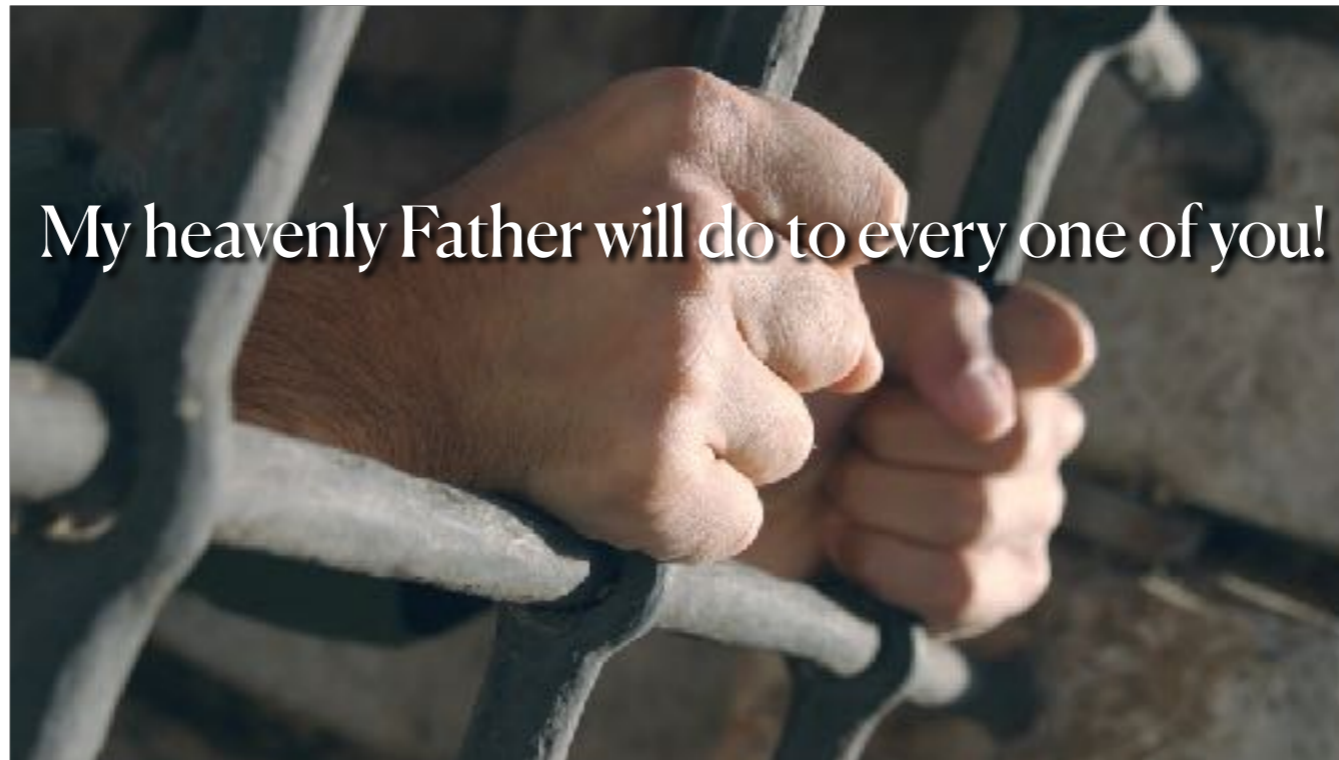
- Why it is important to admit that forgiveness is hard...
 - What are my motives?
 - What is in my heart?
 - Real forgiveness refuses to focus on myself
 - It steadfastly looks toward the offender
 - asking how may I help him to overcome sin.



- Forgiveness is EASY (becomes?)
 - When my concern for the offender's soul is greater than my need for self-healing and/or vengeance.
 - When I remember my relationship with my Father.
 - When I remember that I am not God, not in the place of God.
 - When I remember my relationship is of brothers / fellow-servants.
 - When my desire to help offender is greater than my desire to punish.
 - Eyes not on self -- but first on God, then offender
 - HOW CAN I SAVE?



- The Warning ...
- 34: until he should pay all his debt.
 - If debt was forgiven and released, then how could he still have debt to pay?
 - Danger of taking analogy too far?
 - Reminds us that “forgive and forget” is oversimplified.



- Matthew 18:35 — So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”
 - Our father has compassion and forgives
 - but if we don't forgive LIKE HIM
 - then He will punish our wickedness
 - This is not, I think, a revoking of previous forgiveness.
 - Rather it is dealing with our current sins: anger, violence, vengeance, lack of compassion and mercy.

and forgive us our debts,
as we also have
forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:12



- Matthew 6:12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- Pray!
 - Appreciation of how God has forgiven me.
 - Determination to forgive others.
 - Understanding the wickedness of not forgiving from my heart.
- Strangely, one stand before God always needing his mercy.
 - We have received forgiveness, so we must forgive.
 - We continue to forgive, knowing that we will need to be forgiven.

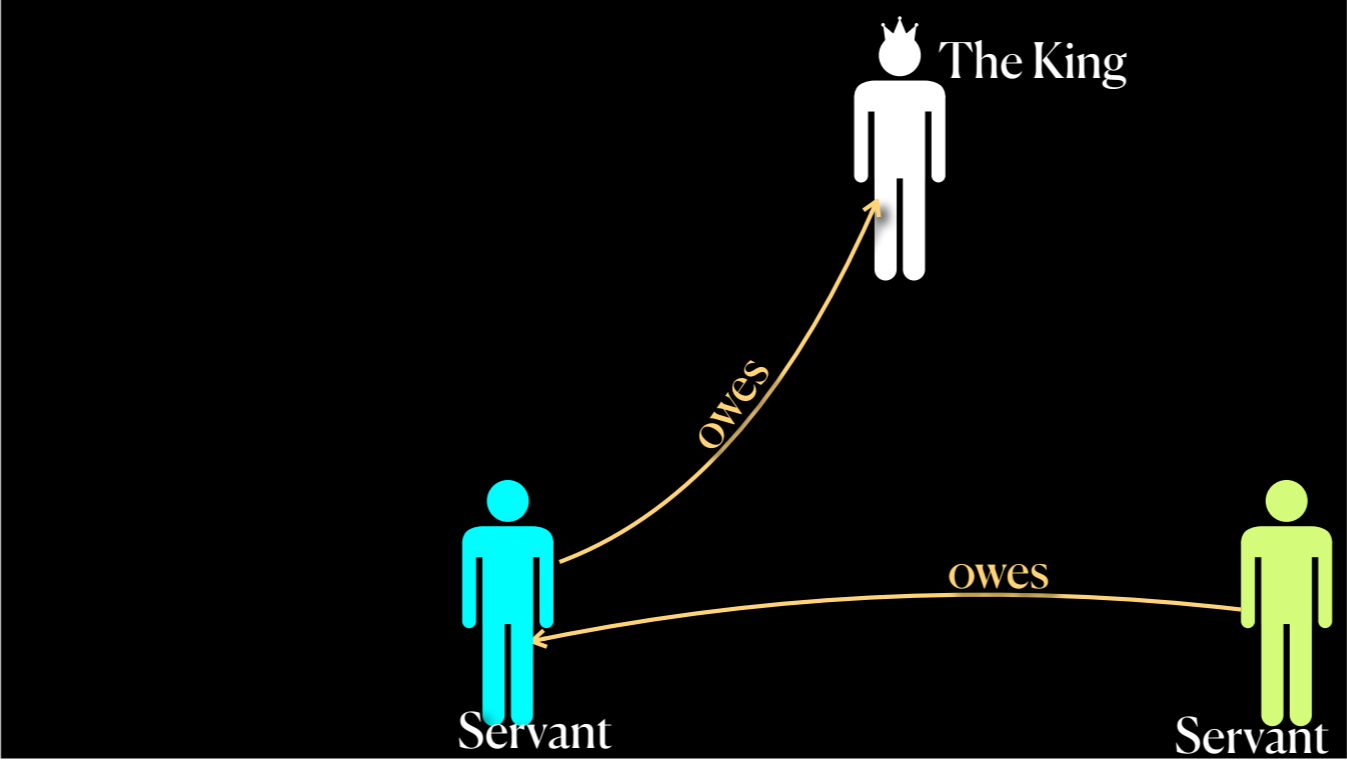


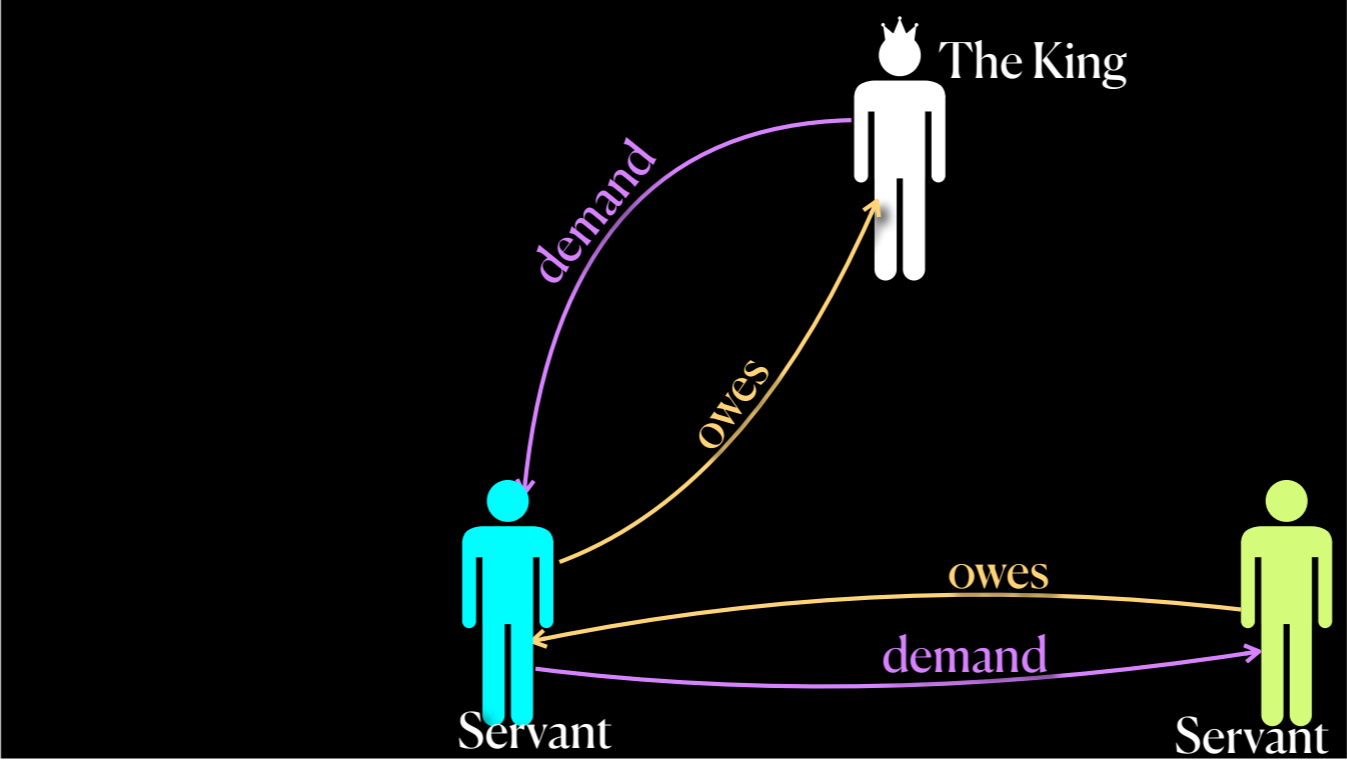
**Forgive
your
brother!**

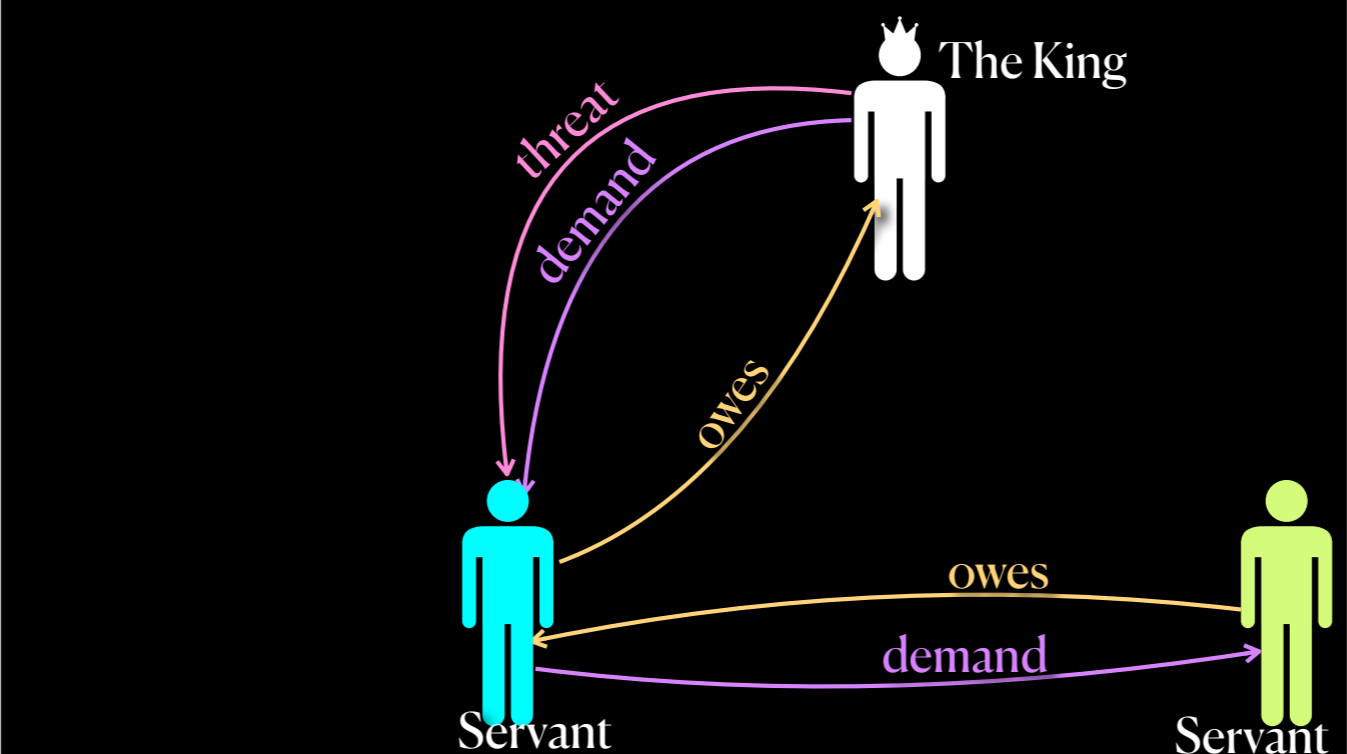
- Does God smile when he forgives me? Yes!
- I must smile when I forgive my brother and fellow servant (this is like God)
 - I must put aside my anger and hurt at how I've been wronged.
 - I must not desire to repay evil for evil, nor withhold good.
 - Anger must be replaced with steadfast love and compassion.
 - I must consider the frailty, fear, and sins of the sinner.
- This is just the first step... keep on helping
 - Healing, Redeeming, Crowning, Satisfying

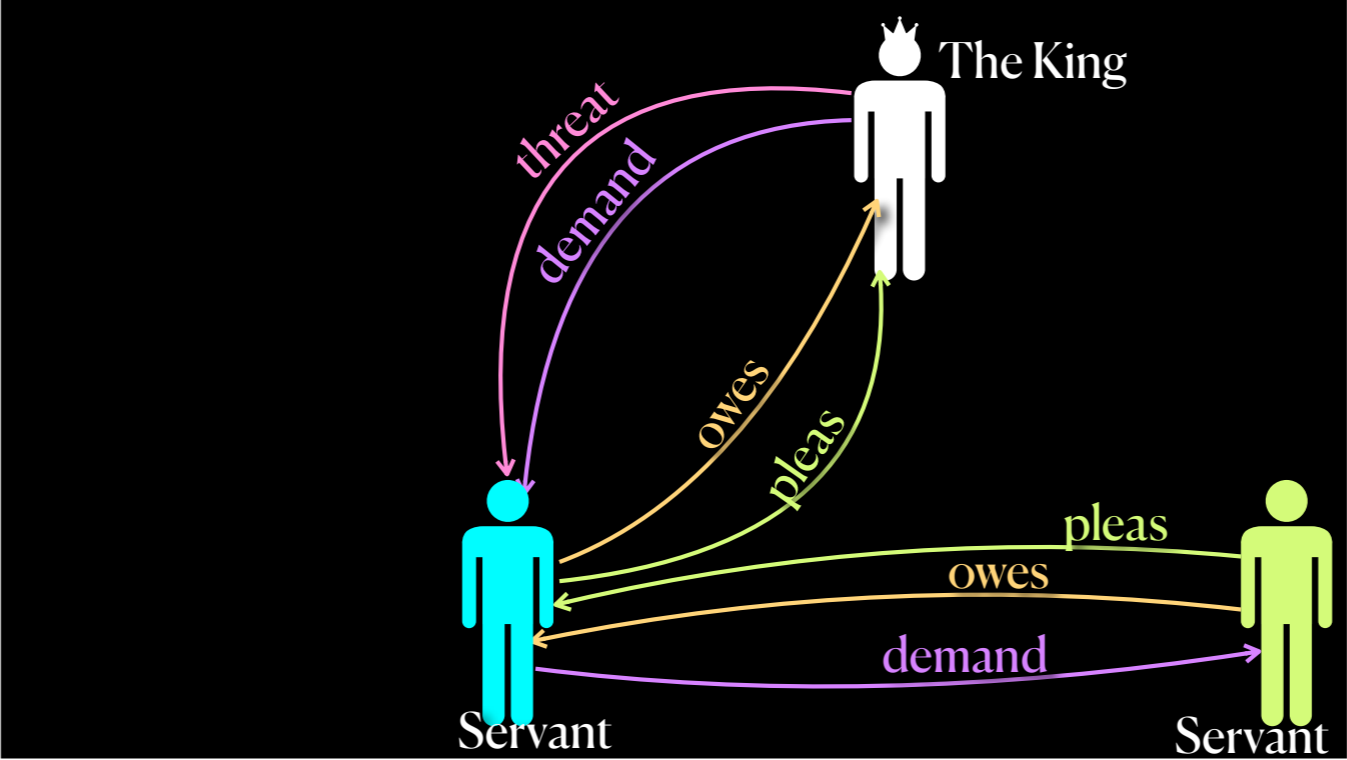
**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

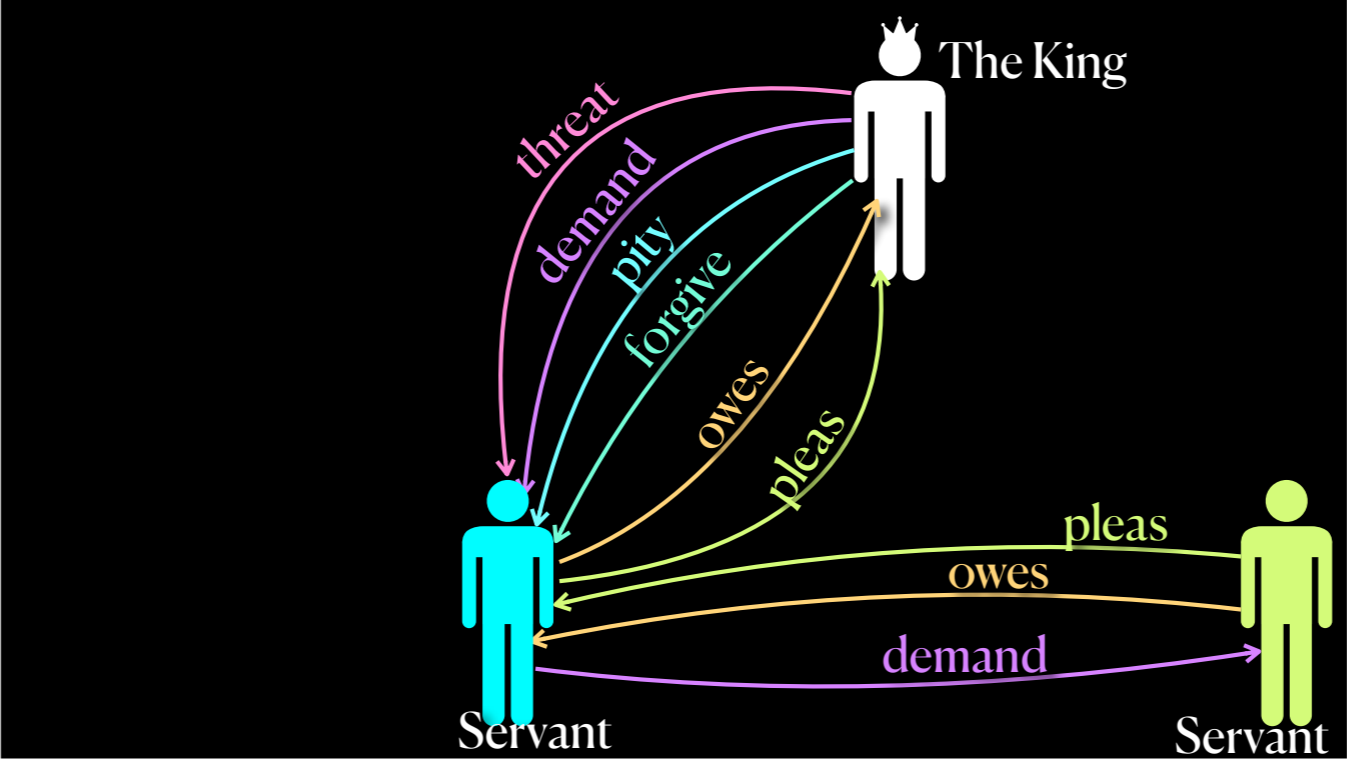
2 Corinthians 5:20

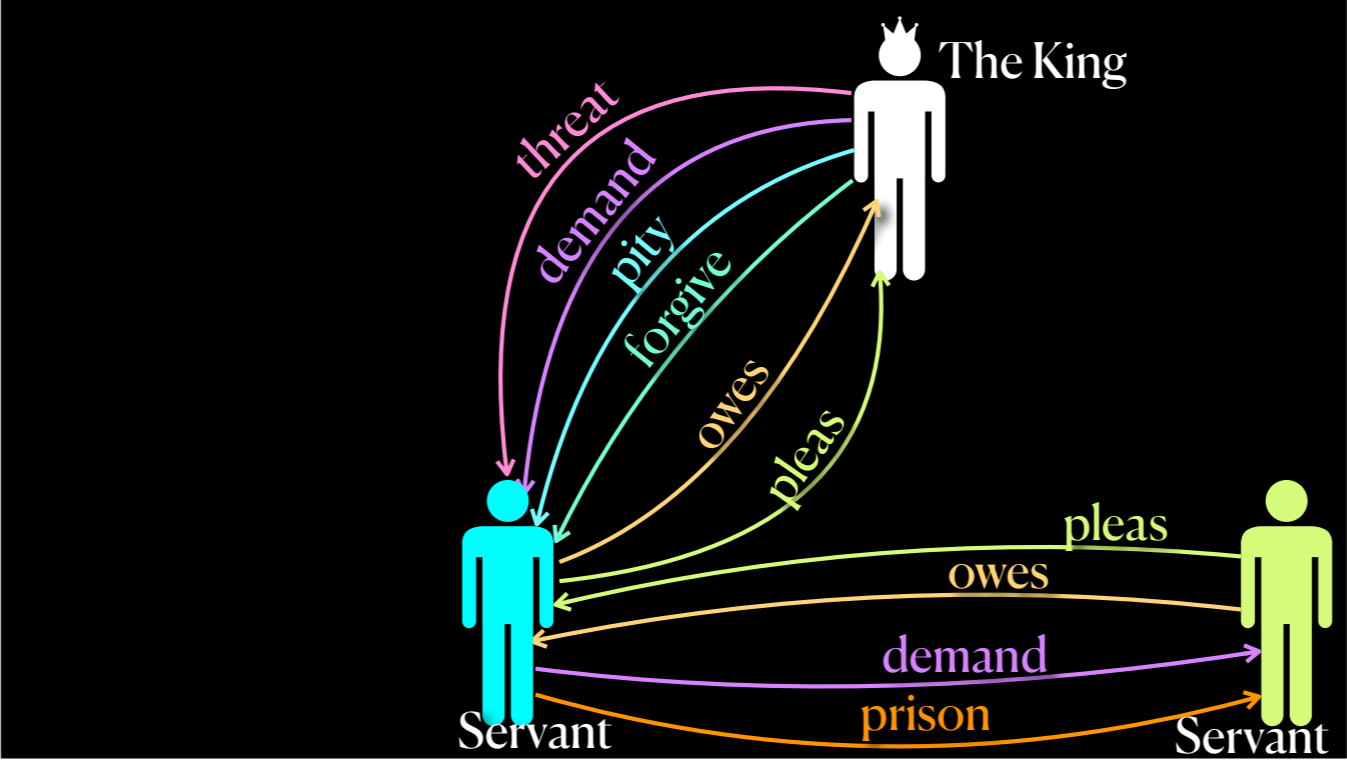












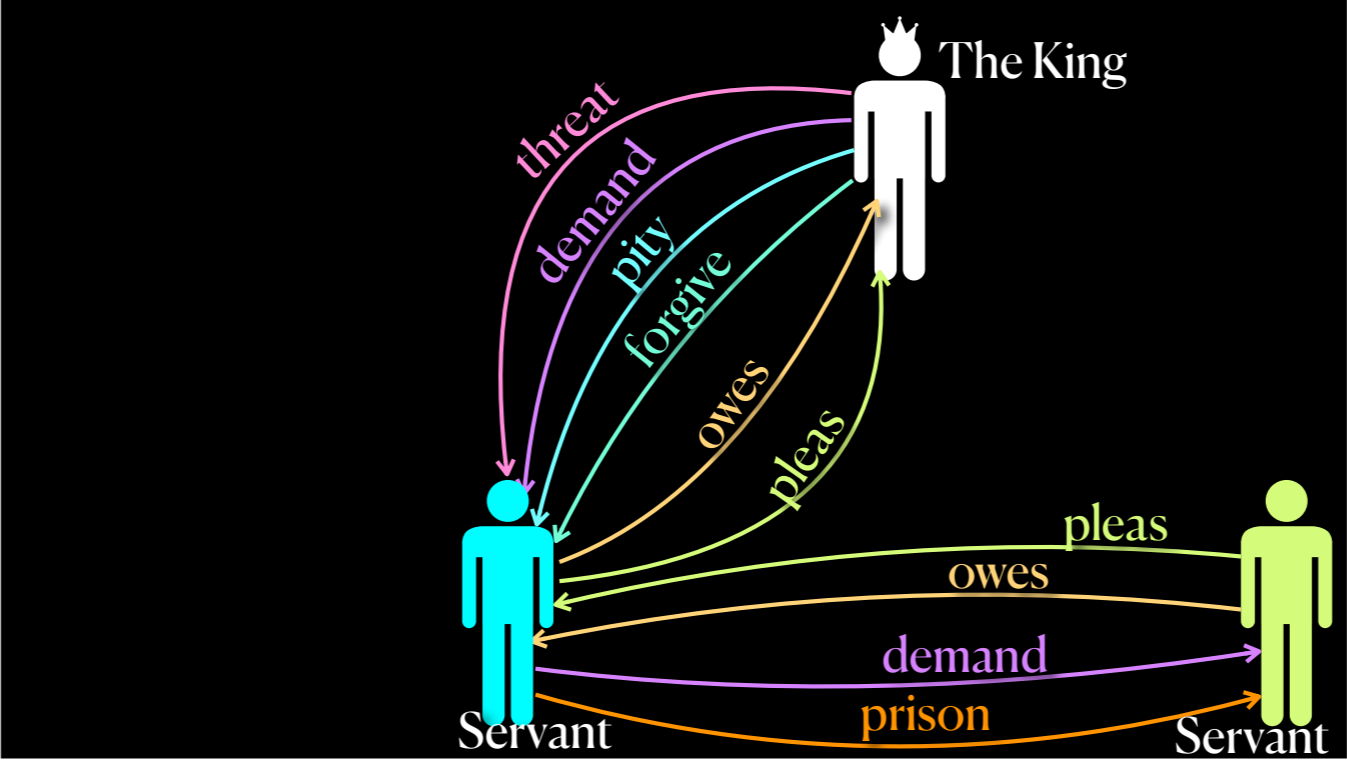


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Forgive Your Brother - 2

Matthew 18:28-35; Psalm 103

Synopsis: In this lesson we learn not only the importance of forgiving my brother, but are taught by God how we must forgive those who have sinned against us. Too often we make excuses for not forgiving, when we should be finding reasons to forgive authentically. In this part, we'll recall the importance of being merciful like God and forgiving from the heart.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”