God’s Overflowing Love

Compassion – Matthew 18:23-27

**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 talents﻿ 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 “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, canceled the debt and let him go.**

*The word “compassion” is filled with rich meaning. In the original Greek, the word literally means to be moved in the gut; to have your insides ache. It refers to the inner organs. The Latin literally means to “suffer with, to feel the pain and suffering of another.” This word indicates an intensely emotional reaction of unbridled sympathy and heartfelt concern for another.*

The “ten thousand talents” (v. 24) was an astronomical amount, estimated at $10 to 20 million, depending on the weight and nationality of the coinage, and the effect of inflation. A talent was a monetary unit worth twenty years’ wages for a laborer. (TLSB)

The implication is that our sin puts us so far in debt to God that we ourselves can never repay the amount. His forgiveness is the only way our account can be settled favorably.

When it says that “king took pity on him” (v. 27) it means that the king was filled with tenderness. It comes from the same word family as compassion as used in Matthew 9:36.

The spiritual debts that are caused by our sins against God and fellow human beings are enormous. On our own we can never make enough payments to ever, ever make restitution for even a fraction of them.

As overwhelming as our liabilities from our sin are, so is God’s overflowing love for us. It was so great that He sent His one and only Son to suffer and die for every one of our transgressions. The debts were mammoth but God’s love was even more immense.

Every day He removes our sins **12 “as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. 13As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.”** (Psalm 103:12-13)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you, that you are willing to over and over again forgive our many sins. We praise you that we can say with Isaiah: "**Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”** (Isaiah 1:18)