

The Measure of Forgiveness

by Cathy Farkas

Matthew 18:21-35



Christ's Object Lessons
pp. 243-251

- Christ taught that we are never to become weary of forgiving.
- Jewish custom, 3 times.
- “7 times?” Peter asked.
- “70 x 7” Jesus replied.

The King and His Servant



The king called in his servant who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn't pay so the king said to sell the servant, his wife and children and all that he had to pay the debt.

“Please be patient with me,
and I
will pay it
all,”
the servant
begged.



Then his master was filled
with pity for him,



and he released
him,
and forgave his
debt.

But when the man left the king,



he went to a fellow servant who
owed him a full day's wage.



He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.



“Be patient with me

and I
will pay it,”
he pleaded.



But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison, until the debt could be paid in full.



When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened.



“You evil servant!
I forgave you that tremendous debt,
because you pleaded with me.
Shouldn't you have mercy
on your fellow servant,
just as I had mercy on you?”

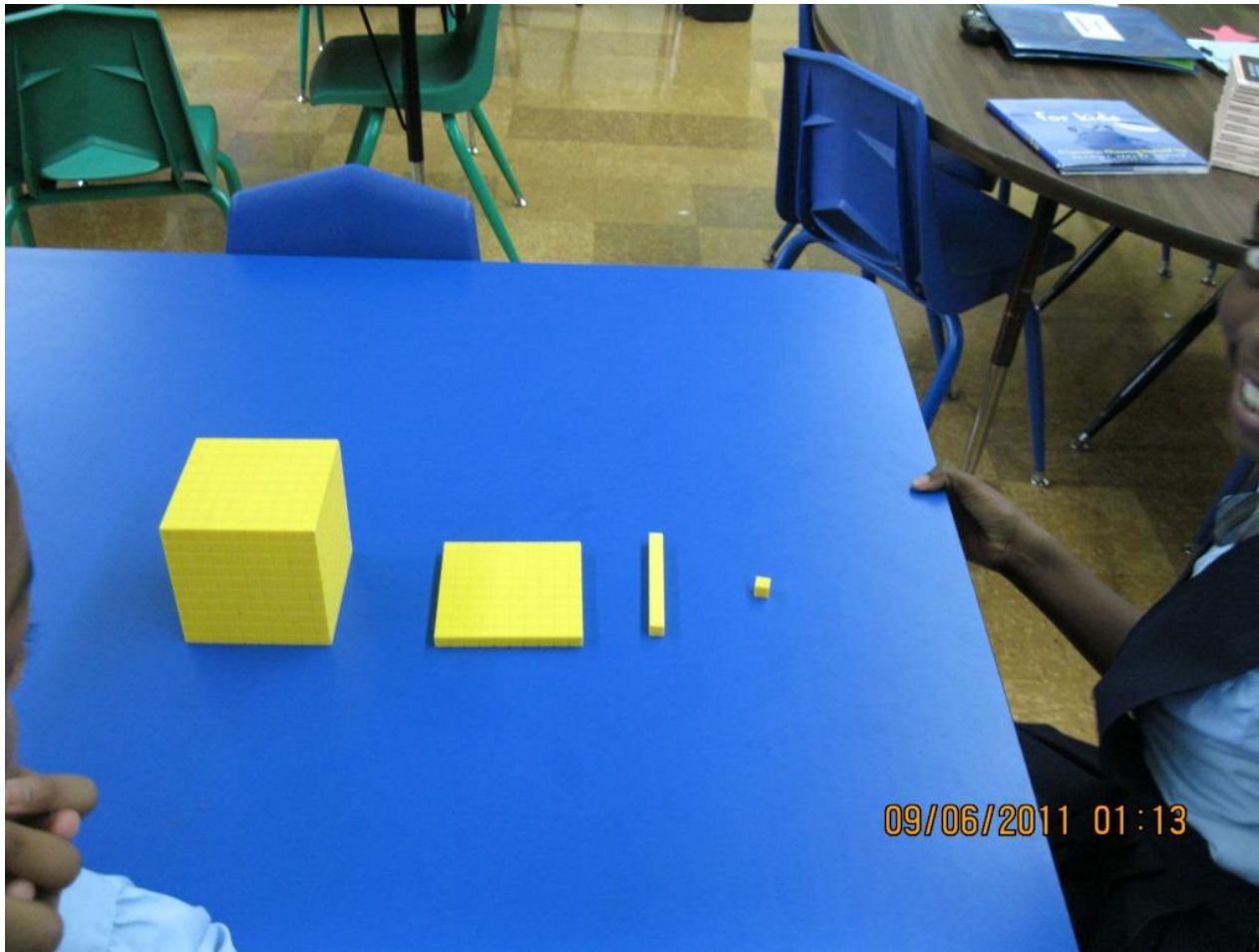


The meaning of the lesson:

- Christ is represented by the king.
- The whole debt was canceled.
- He who had so recently been forgiven was not tenderhearted and pitiful.
- God said, “Freely you have received, freely give.”
- There are many who hope by their own works to merit God’s favor.
- Their own sins compared to their brother’s sins

Nearly one million to one.

One thousand to one



A million cubic centimeter box



Jesus told us to
“Forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors.”



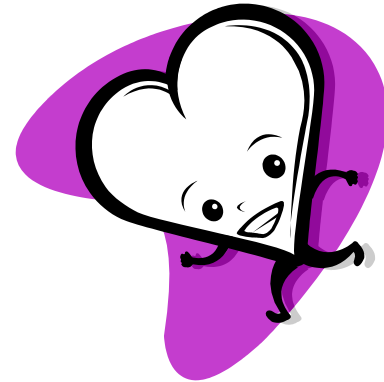
In God's forgiveness the heart of the erring one is drawn close to the great heart of Infinite Love.



The tide of divine compassion flows
into the sinner's soul,
and from him to the souls of others.



But the great lesson of the parable
lies in the contrast between God's
compassion and man's
hardheartedness;



in the fact that God's forgiving
mercy is to be the measure of our
own.



We need to be touched by God
and made into new creations!



Transformed so we can forgive!



We can only forgive after God transforms us.



**Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true.
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You.**



**You are the potter
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray.**

