

to have had compassion on his fellow servant who owed him a hundred days wages and have forgiven him! Why? Because the king had forgiven this satrap a much greater debt.

Here then is the point of the story. Because the king had forgiven this satrap the greater debt he owed to him, this satrap was under moral obligation to forgive his fellow servant the smaller debt he owed to him.

The analogy in this story is very clear. The king represents the Lord and the satrap represents us.

We had offended the Lord by violating His commandments, and since the law demands we suffer eternal torment in Hell for violating His commandments, we were faced with that punishment. That was the debt we owed! But we were spiritually bankrupt! There was no way we could pay that debt short of going to Hell itself and suffering eternal torment for our sins. But we believed Jesus paid that debt for us by His death, and since the demands of the law upon us were satisfied by His death, the Lord forgave us, that is, He treated us just as though we had never sinned.

But then someone offends us. That offense seems so small compared to the offenses we committed against the Lord, but we refuse to forgive that person for it. We say, "I'll never forgive that person for that offense!" or "I'll never forget what that person did to me!" When we do that, we are disobeying the rule of forgiveness in Christ's kingdom, for according to that rule, we are under moral obligation to forgive all the offenses committed against us because the Lord has forgiven us the greater offenses we committed against Him. If we are going to obey the rule of forgiveness in Christ's Kingdom then, whenever anyone offends us, no matter what that offense may be, we are to forgive that person for it, <sup>that is,</sup> we are to treat that person on a personal level just as though the offense had not been committed.