

as the king did to that satrap "shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye, from your hearts, forgive not every one (notice how Jesus individualizes it) his brother his trespasses."

In these verses Jesus says the king was angry with the satrap and punished him because after he had forgiven the satrap a debt of 60,000,000 days of wages, the satrap refused to forgive one of his fellow servants a debt of only a hundred days of wages; and that just as the king was angry with that satrap and punished him, so His heavenly Father will be angry with us and punish us if we, from our hearts, don't individually forgive the one who offends us.

Now when Jesus says His heavenly Father will punish us, He doesn't mean His heavenly Father will revoke our forgiveness, and we will suffer eternal punishment in Hell for our sins. Jesus bore that punishment for us "in His own body on the tree", and because He bore that punishment for us and thereby satisfied the demands of the law upon us, we will never have to suffer that punishment. Paul makes this clear in Romans 8:1 when he says, "There is, therefore, now no ^condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." But Jesus does mean His heavenly Father will chasten us.

I have two children. They are grown up now, but as they were growing up, I had to chasten them. I wish I could say I never made a mistake in chastening them, but I can't. I'm human, and therefore I made some mistakes. But the Lord never makes mistakes. He is the perfect disciplinarian and He knows how to chasten so as to get the desired result. He knows what pressure to apply to us, when to apply it, and just how much to apply to get us to do what He wants us to do. If someone offends us then, and we stubbornly refuse to forgive that person, the Lord will chasten us, and He will increase the severity of the chastisement until we break and give the forgiveness He requires. One way or another, we will give it!