

# Debt Relief From God

By Brian Price 12/12/2013

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*"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." - Luke 18:13-14*

Show me a perfect man, and I will show you a sinner saved by grace. A story is told in the book of Matthew of the unfaithful steward. It was discovered by his lord that he owed approximately 10,000 talents. The Bible does not say whether these were talents of silver, or talents of gold. In any case, this equated to millions of dollars in today's terms. Needless to say, the servant could not pay back the debt. The lord then commanded him, his possessions, and even his entire family to be sold in order to pay back the debt. The Bible says that this servant fell down and pleaded with his lord for mercy.

*"The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all." - Matthew 18:26*

And do you know what the lord of this servant did?

*"Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and **FORGAVE HIM THE DEBT.**" - Matthew 18:27*

He *forgave* his debt!



He had compassion on this poor soul, and forgave his entire debt of 10,000 talents. Friend, do you know anyone in this world who would forgive you 10 million dollars of credit card debt? This is what we call debt relief. It is the partial, or total forgiveness of one's debt. It happens sometimes, but having someone forgive millions of dollars of debt is unheard of. But this is exactly what God does with poor sinners like you and me. He frankly forgives us our debts. And mind you, these debts are no ordinary debts of \$50 or \$100. These debts are in the thousands, and in some cases, millions of dollars. This picture of sin debt was addressed when Jesus told his disciples to pray, "And forgive us our DEBTS, as we forgive our debtors."

### **GOD'S GREAT LOVE**

The fact of the matter is that God loves us no matter what. When you love someone, it makes it easier to forgive them for wrongdoing. This is why God is able to forgive us. If he hated us, then he would not forgive us.

*"Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee." - Deuteronomy 8:5*

Just as the book of Deuteronomy says, God disciplines us as a man does his own son. And if we are God's sons and daughters, then he is willing to forgive us just as any earthly father would his own children.

*"20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

*21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." - Luke 15:20-21*

In the story of the prodigal son, it's interesting to see how the father reacts to his son's return from a life of sin. The first thing this son did was admit to his father that he had messed up. He realized that he was living a life that was shameful to his father. But the father didn't even address the issue when the son apologized.

The father was greatly overjoyed to see his son return. The reaction the father gave was a happy one. Did the son mess up? Absolutely. But that was still his boy. The father still loved this young man.

God's love knows no bounds. When we think there is no hope for mercy, we find that somehow there is. God still loves us despite those times when we fall. The Bible says that a righteous man falls seven times and rises up again. Falling down seven times is quite a bit, but its important that we get back up again and return to our Father that is deeply concerned about us.

## **CONCLUSION**

I don't know about you, but I know that for me, I need God's mercy. I trust in his mercy on a daily basis. If God had no mercy for me, then there would be no hope for eternal life for me. It was mercy that saved me in the first place, and it is mercy that keeps me.

*"4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,  
5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his **MERCY**  
he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;  
6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour." - Titus 3:4-6*

I thank God everyday that he has mercy that endures forever.

*"8 The LORD is **MERCIFUL** and gracious, slow to anger, and **plenteous in MERCY**.  
9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.  
10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.  
11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, **so great is his MERCY toward them that fear him**.  
12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.  
13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him." - Psalms 103:8-13*

Friend, have you ever received debt relief from God? Has there ever been a time in your life where you asked God for mercy? His mercy is available to us all. It's up to us if we are going to take advantage of it. If you would like God's mercy in your life, then pray this simple prayer:

*"Lord Jesus, I apologize for the way that I have lived my life. I know that you have a lot of mercy to give to me, and I ask that you would be merciful to me, a sinner. I ask that you would forgive me and come into my heart. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

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