

*"Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me that thou owest.'" **Matthew 18:27-28 KJV***



Our Lord has forgiven us an eternal debt! We could labor and suffer a zillion years and not even begin to scratch the surface! The magnitude of the sacrifice the God of heaven made to satisfy our debt goes beyond mere payment; beyond giving our last two mites. It required everything up to and including His very life, not only given, but tortuously extracted over many agonizing hours of unimaginable physical and mental anguish! Even with all that, Jesus does not demand our allegiance, but simply pleads for our affection and love. All He asks from us in return is *"Love one another as I have loved you."*

Could you honestly love anyone as much as Jesus loves you? The only possible way we can is to let *"Christ in you; the hope of glory"* love them through us by obedience to the *"Law of Faith."* How often do we hold a grudge against a fellow believer, because of some injury, slight, or gossip? How often do we forget the debt forgiven us at Calvary and angrily go for the throat? How easy it is for Satan to tempt us to anger when someone rejects or injures us! How must Christ feel when men neglect, reject, and mock Him after He died to freely provide eternal life? *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"* We suffer selective memory loss when it comes to forgiveness. We will not bear rejection or injury from our Christian fellows, but angrily shout, *"Pay Me!"* forgetting instantly the enormous debt Christ forgave us. Jesus would have died, had you been the only sinner! *"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? If a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."* Lest we forget the great sacrifice made, believers should often visit the foot of Calvary, and behold the dying *"Lamb of God"* as He utters, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do!"*

King of my life, I crown Thee now, Thine shall the glory be;
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow, lead me to Calvary.
Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid, tenderly mourned and wept;
Angels in robes of light arrayed, guarded Thee whilst Thou slept.
Let me like Mary, through the gloom, come with a gift to Thee;
Show to me now the empty tomb, lead me to Calvary.
May I be willing, Lord, to bear, daily my cross for Thee;
Even Thy cup of grief to share, Thou hast borne all for me.
Lest I forget Gethsemane, lest I forget Thine agony;
Lest I forget Thy love for me, lead me to Calvary. ~ Jennie E. Hussey

"And you, being dead (separate from God) in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together (reunited) with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross." Colossians 2:13-14 KJV