

# **PETER'S INQUISITIVENESS**

## **Matthew 18-19**

**When uncertain about spiritual matters, its wise to ask Christ for council**

### **I. WHAT ABOUT FORGIVENESS RESPONSIBILITIES?** - Matthew 18:21-35

#### **A. PETER'S SITUATION (21-22)**

1. Personalization (21a)
  - a. After Christ's teaching about dealing with a faulty brother (Matt. 18:15-20)
  - b. Peter is trying to understand his personal responsibility
2. Question (21b)
3. Suggestion (21c)
4. Instruction (22)

#### **B. CHRIST'S ILLUSTRATION (23-34)**

- Jesus powerfully used parables to instruct His followers
1. The focused perspective (23a)
    - The kingdom of heaven is like ...
  2. The forgiving king (23b-27)
  3. The forgive-less servant (28-30)
  4. The follow-up punishment (31-34)

#### **C. CHRIST'S APPLICATION (35)**

1. Consequences
2. Caution: For each of you unwilling to forgive from the heart
3. Conclusion
  - a. Forgiveness is a matter of the heart and not the head
  - b. It's not about counting the forgive-nesses but the character of the forgiver
  - c. The lesson stated positively is this:
    - “Prompted by gratitude the forgiven sinner must always yearn to forgive whoever has transgressed against him and must do all in his power to bring about reconciliation.” [William Hendriksen, “Matthew,” p. 709]

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## II. WHAT ABOUT FUTURE REWARDS? - Matthew 19:27-30

### A. PETER'S PROBE (27)

1. The Context: "Then ..."
2. The Claim: We surrendered and submitted
3. The Companions: We all left and followed
4. The Question
  - a. What are our benefits?
  - b. What should we expect?

### B. JESUS' PROMISES (28-29)

- "Truly I say ..." wonderful and comforting words

1. To the disciples (28)
  - a. Who: Those who have been following Me
  - b. When: In the renewal (Millennium) and I'm enthroned
  - c. What: You'll have thrones and authority
2. To the devoted (29)
  - a. Who: Those who left everyone and everything for Jesus
  - b. What: Much more now and eternal life later
  - c. Why: Because God delights in rewarding His children
    - See Col. 3:23-24 and Matt. 25:35-40

### C. CHRIST'S PRONOUNCEMENT (30)

- The same thing is repeated after the laborers parable which follows (cf. Mt. 20:1-16)

1. The prominent will be demoted > Those highly regarded by men
2. The demoted will be promoted > Those highly regarded by God
3. The principle: Don't expect reward based on supposed merit

## CONCLUSION:

*Questions are good*

**Peter's questions gave him and us a better understanding of God's will about forgiveness and the future.**

*When you read: Ask questions*

*When you listen: Ask questions*

**Let's be inquisitive like Peter and thereby clarify what God communicates**

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