

“Debts”

27 October 2018

Little Trinity Anglican Church, Toronto

Discussion Questions  
(take as many as you want, in any order)

*Read Matthew 18.21-35*

1. The sermon focuses on the implications of thinking about sin as debt. What other images come to mind when you think about sin? Define sin in your own words. Are there particular points in Scripture that illustrate how you think about sin? How do different ways of conceptualizing/imaging sin affect how we think about God, Jesus, the cross, etc.?
2. Why does the sermon suggest that thinking of sin as debt means that we are in community with God? What is the community created by debt? What does it mean for your life to imagine God as your heavenly creditor? (And how would you get into God's debt?)
3. Why does the sermon suggest that thinking of sin as debt means forgiveness is costly for God? What does it mean to think that God pays a price in forgiving us? What is that price?
4. What does it mean to forgive someone from the heart, in light of the parable? How is forgiveness costly for us? If you struggle to forgive, what resources does the parable offer for how you could advance in forgiveness? Does forgiveness mean forgetting/reconciliation?
5. Jesus interprets the parable for us: our heavenly father will treat us like the king treated the unforgiving servant, if we do not forgive our brother and sister from the heart. How do you react to this declaration? Are you surprised at the idea that God's forgiveness is conditional on our forgiving? (Does this affect how you pray the Lord's Prayer: "forgive us our trespasses/sins/debts *as we forgive...*")
6. Contrast the two kinds of communities created by debt satisfaction versus forgiveness of debt. What does each look like? Which one seems more like your actual experience of church? What would it take to be a community of forgiveness?
7. Are there any brothers or sisters you have not forgiven from your heart? Do you need to do something about this? Why/why not?
8. Explore together Paul's instruction to the Roman church to owe each other nothing but love (Rom 13.8). What might this mean in light of the Matthew lesson?