

The Anatomy of a Church (49a)

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[Acts 20:28](#)

(Continuation from 02/08/15)

The Internal Systems-2

HUMILITY

The second attitude a Christian should have is humility.

How much is ten thousand talents and a hundred denarii in the parable of [Matthew 18](#) worth according to today's monetary standards?

The “denarius” and “talent” were units of currency in the New Testament times. A denarius was a Roman silver coin weighing about 4 grams, a “day’s” wages for a common laborer or soldier ([Matthew 20:1-2](#)).

A talent, a unit of weight for gold or silver, typically weighed about 33kg (75lb) varying from 20 to 40kg.

[Matthew 20:1-2 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

² When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.”

When we compare the value of a hundred denarii with that of ten thousand talents, we can realize how tremendous the grace of God given to us is and how small the faults of our brothers and sisters are. Now, let's take a look at the parable written in [Matthew 18](#).

[Matthew 18:21-27 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹ “Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

²⁴ When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

²⁵ But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.

²⁶ So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’

²⁷ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.”

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One talent is equal to **6,000 denarii**, which would take an ordinary laborer 6,000 days (16 years) to earn. Let's convert that into US dollars; if an average day's wages is assumed to be 100 US dollars, it is around \$600,000 dollars. Since one talent is such a large amount of money, how much is ten thousand talents, equivalent to about 60,000,000 denarii, worth? It is a tremendous amount of money, which is worth about 160,000 years of wages!

Through the above parable, we can come to know the fact that we were sinners who committed grave sins against God, like the servant who owed the king a debt of ten thousand talents, which he could never repay by his own strength or ability. Taking pity on us, God forgave our tremendous sins without any conditions.

God wants us to forgive the faults of our brothers and sisters with love, just as He has forgiven our sins. The faults of our brothers and sisters are nothing compared to our sins which are as great as a debt of **ten thousand talents**. The Bible describes the person who does not forgive his brother's faults as a wicked servant who mistreated his fellow servant who owed him a **hundred denarii**, even though he himself was forgiven of the tremendous debt of **ten thousand talents**.

[Matthew 18:28-30 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁸ **“But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began to choke him*, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’**

²⁹ **So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began to plead with him*, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’**

³⁰ **But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.”**

He was forgiven of his debt of **ten thousand talents**, a huge amount of money that would have taken him 160,000 years to earn, during which time he could not even spend a single penny to repay the debt. Nevertheless, he did not forgive the person whom owed him only a **hundred denarii**, equal to about 100 days wages. He was so ungrateful and unmerciful.

[Matthew 18:31-34 \(NASB\)](#)

³¹ **“So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.**

³² **Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.’**

³³ **‘Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’**

³⁴ **And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.”**

The servant who did not forgive his fellow servant who owed him a **hundred denarii** was finally thrown into prison. This parable teaches us about how we, who have received such tremendous grace from God, should treat our brothers and sisters.

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Matthew 18:35 (NASB)

³⁵“My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

We are all sinners who are lacking in many ways, and are being made perfect together. In the process, we may experience discord with our brothers and sisters or become jealous of them, because of the dregs of our sins committed in heaven and our impurities from the world. However, if we realize the forgiveness of sins we have received from God, the mistakes or faults of our brothers and sisters are really nothing. All the mistakes and faults of the brothers and sisters, who have received God’s promises through the new covenant, are always forgivable. When we cover up the faults of our brothers and sisters with a broad mind, we can ask God to forgive us as well.