Matthew 18:21-35: Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

**Act One: The servant and the king (vs. 23-27)**

Only when we begin to see the other person with compassion can we decide to move on and no longer be trapped by our own pride and desires for vengeance or the fear of what others might think. Vanity and pride can be set aside. Forgiveness no longer identifies us with the wrongs that have happened. We can let go of the resentment that those actions bring. We can forgive the parent who wasn’t there. We can forgive the abusive spouse or rebellious teenage son. We are freed from the fear that blinds us and binds us in the prison-house of resentment. The good life we hope for; the life every sin seems to deny us, has been given freely by Christ. God has unconditionally loved us and set us aside for himself. – Timothy Massaro

**Act Two: The forgiven servant meets a fellow servant of the king (vs. 28-31)**

**Act Three: The King confronts the wicked servant (vs. 31-35)**

C.S. Lewis’ book The Four Loves

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

Let’s read Romans 5:6-11