

**Thou wicked servant.** The king had forgiven his dishonesty, but he cannot forgive his inhumanity to his fellow debtor. **Deliver him to the tormentors ;** not only to be imprisoned, but to be tortured also. **Till he should pay all.** This practically meant a lifelong imprisonment. It will be noted that the debtor had nothing to say in defence or appeal, this time. **So likewise.** Jesus proceeds to apply the parable to conduct. Mercy from God demands mercy to our fellowmen. God in His mercy has imposed on us a debt to our fellows which is overwhelmingly great, for He has forgiven us our trespasses when we could not atone for them. The debt that any one may owe us is comparatively trifling, like the debt of the second debtor. God expects that His mercy to us will lead to our mercy to others. We pray, in accordance with this principle, "Forgive us our debts; as we forgive our debtors." **From your hearts ;** not a forced forgiveness, but a full, free, real forgiving.

of the second debtor? By whom had this plea been used before? What was its effect? To whose ears did the matter come? What has the king to say to the first debtor? Who is represented by the king, in the parable? What lesson does Christ draw from the parable?

#### FOR DISCUSSION

1. Are we to wait to forgive until we are asked for forgiveness?
2. Why is our forgiveness from God dependent on our forgiveness of others?

#### A LESSON FOR LIFE

When a person can frankly and fully forgive his enemy, he has come very near to being like God. If he cannot forgive, he may well tremble; for these two things are lacking to him,—that likeness to God which is the root and substance of true manhood, and the possibility of forgiveness from God of his own shortcomings. It is a hard thing to do, to forgive freely; but it is the wise and noble thing, for such forgiveness not only puts one right with God and with one's fellowmen, but with oneself also. Amongst the great lessons for life to be learned, one of the first and greatest is to learn forgiveness. Hard indeed to learn, is this full and ungrudging forgiveness, for there is a root of bitterness in even the sweetest nature. It is only as the heart is renewed by the Spirit of God, that such forgiveness becomes possible.

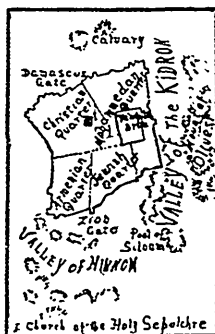
**Prove from Scripture—That forgiveness should be constant.**

**Shorter Catechism—Ques. 38.** *What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?* A. At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

**The Question on Missions—11.** How are they taught to honor Jesus? They are taught, as we are in our homes, by the example of their teachers, by grace at meals, by morning and evening prayers, by daily study of the Bible and memorizing thereof, by going to Sabbath School and to church services, and by giving themselves to Jesus.

**Lesson Hymns—**Book of Praise, 195 (Supplemental Lesson); 151; 136; 108 (Ps. Sel.); 524 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 145.

#### THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM were very narrow and crooked. The principal streets had been paved by Herod the Great. Some were wide enough for shops; but the spaces near the gates were the principal places of business. In the time of Christ all open spaces were cleaned every day. There were about four hundred and eighty synagogues, and every morning the streets were filled with worshipers repairing to their chosen synagogue.

#### LESSON QUESTIONS

21, 22 What was Peter's question? What measure of forgiveness does he suggest? What was the Talmud's limit? What was Jesus' measure?

23-35 With what does Jesus illustrate His meaning? How much did the first debtor owe? What was the sentence imposed by the king? What was the debtor's plea? How did it affect the king? How much did the second debtor owe? To whom was it owed? How was he treated? What was the plea

#### FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What does Jesus mean by "seventy times seven?"

2. Describe the king's conduct to the first debtor.

3. What should this have taught the first debtor?