

Bible Quiz

Why did Moses say that he would pay his debts? Jesus asks for forgiveness?

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The Old and New Testament teachings on debt and forgiveness may seem contradictory, but they actually reflect the balance of God's requirements and grace for man.

In the Old Testament, the Mosaic Law did require people to pay debts, which reflected the principles of fairness and good faith. The law prohibits creditors from exploiting the poor, from usury, and even forgives debts in Sabbath years. These provisions are aimed at protecting vulnerable groups and upholding social justice.

However, Jesus' teaching of forgiveness in Matthew 18 does not negate the responsibility to pay debts, but rather emphasizes deeper spiritual truths:

God's Forgiveness for Us: Jesus illustrates that each of us owes a great debt to God through the parable of the unforgiving servant, and that God has forgiven us.

Scope of forgiveness: When Peter asked about the number of times he forgives, Jesus replied, "seventy seven times.", indicating that forgiveness should be unlimited. Reflect God's character: As favored people, we should imitate God's mercy and treat those who have sinned against us in the same way. This teaching is not intended to abolish the legal or economic order, but rather to call believers to live out God's love and grace in their daily lives. Jesus' teachings remind us that in dealing with relationships, we should not only consider law and fairness, but also show God's mercy and forgiveness. The Old Testament principle of repayment and the New Testament teaching of forgiveness are not contradictory, but rather mutually reinforcing, pointing to God's expectation of both righteousness and mercy.

Serve him a prison sentence and ask him to pay off all his debts

This is a symbolic expression that in the trial, those who refuse to forgive others will face severe punishment. The servant owed a huge debt that he could not pay and was sent to prison until it was paid off. This parable highlights the unforgiving reality that if we refuse to forgive others, we will not receive forgiveness from God.