

Two values

Justice & Compassion

Matt.18:23-27

Two insights from this text

1.
People in **low places** need to **take ownership.**
2.
People in **high places** need to **show compassion.**

A life truth

The way we remember our story will effect our behavior.

Matt.18:31-35

Two insights from this text

1.
Self-talk is key to a gracious walk.
2.
Gratitude kills both the pity party & the pride parade.

Matthew 18

"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 entreated me. ³³ Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as 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. ³⁵ So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Two possible interpretations

God takes back His grace if we Don't share it.

God is an "Indian giver."

God turns us over to a world that will treat us the way we treat others.

God will discipline us to see our error.

A political reality

"What goes around comes around"

Matt.18:31-35

Ecclesiastes 11:1

"Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days."

Proverbs 19:17

"He who is gracious to the poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed."

Two tragic political truths

1.
"Civil servants"
too often are neither civil
nor servants.
2.
"When elephants fight
the grass suffers."

"life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"



"life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"

"The pursuit of happiness" was originally understood to refer to -



- self-sacrificing virtue



- not selfish indulgence."

Without this virtue

Capitalism becomes the exploitation of the economically weak by the economically powerful.

Democracy becomes an endless litigation of rights and the manipulation of the naive by the clever and politically powerful.

Pluralism dignifies every kind of moral divergence as a form of human creativity.

Two insights from this text

1.
To chose a life without grace
**is to invite a tortured
existence.**
2.
The way we treat others
tells them how to treat us.

A Christian political creed

1. I will not be a victim nor allow others to see themselves as such.
2. I will view my power and wealth as an opportunity to be compassionate to those less fortunate.
3. I will remember my blessings as a reminder to bless others.
4. I will treat my political opponents the way I want to be treated.

Our national motto

E PLURIBUS UNUM
In diversity unity

Individuality

E PLURIBUS

Community

UNUM?

