

## Catch the meaning of Matthew 18:21-35

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| <b>Tools for effective listening</b>   | <b>The passage—Matthew 18:21-35</b>  |
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| Whether we're listening to our friends, our families, our employers, or our Bibles, the following tools will help us:  | <b>Forgiving from the heart</b>  |
| <b>1. Immediate Context:</b> <i>Stop interrupting me! Hear my whole thought!</i><br>1a. Get the big picture.<br><hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> 1b. Find the important details.<br><hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> 1c. Unmask our assumptions.   | Jesus tells His disciples to forgive from their hearts or face serious consequences.<br><br><div style="border-left: 2px solid blue; padding-left: 10px;"> <p><b>The important details are related to the main point:</b><br/>             (1) Comparison to financial debt. (2) The forgiven one refuses to forgive. (3) Result: condemned to prison. (4) God will treat you like that servant.</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Earthly prison or eternal punishment?</p> </div> |
| <b>2. Translations:</b> <i>Could you say that again using different words?</i>   | 10,000 talents = 10,000 bags of gold<br>100 denarii = 100 silver coins   |
| <b>3. Footnotes and commentaries:</b> <i>Mary, help me understand what John just said.</i>   | 100 denarii = 100 days of wages  |
| <b>4. Book context:</b> <i>Oops! Sorry. I forgot what you told me this morning.</i>  | Language: hell, fire of hell, eternal fire, eternal punishment, weeping and gnashing of teeth....  |
| <b>5. Whole Bible context:</b> <i>If only I had paid attention to what you said last week.</i>   | Related passages on forgiveness.<br>(For examples, see optional sheet of sermon notes.)  |
| <b>6. Setting:</b> <i>I understand you so much better, now that I know the setting of your life.</i><br><br><b>7. Figurative language:</b> <i>The way you talk enriches my life.</i><br>Examples: metaphor, irony, symbolism...<br><br><b>8. Genres:</b> <i>The "color" in your language helps me understand you better.</i><br>Examples: humor, proverbs, prophecy, <span style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">parables</span> , Hebrew poetry, word pictures...<br><br><b>9. Word study:</b> <i>You just used a word I thought I understood, but...</i><br><br><b>10. Application:</b> <i>Finally, I know what to do.</i><br>(action, attitude, belief, etc.) | <div style="border-left: 2px solid blue; padding-left: 10px;"> <p>Optional: See sheet of sermon notes.<br/>(available after the service)</p> </div>  |
|  | Pick up the <b>application</b> sheet, after the service.   |