

Matthew 18:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

Analysis

Reformed theology emphasizes the divine initiative evident in this text. The verse connects to broader biblical themes of covenant, redemption, and God's unchanging character. Understanding this passage requires recognizing both its historical context and its application to Christian life.

Historical Context

First-century Palestine was marked by religious fervor and political tension. The passage reflects interactions between Jesus and various groups: Pharisees, Sadducees, disciples, and crowds. Each audience received teaching tailored to their needs and spiritual condition.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ?
2. What false beliefs or practices does this text correct?
3. How should you share this truth with others?

Interlinear Text

τότε προσκαλεσάμενος αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος αὐτῷ λέγει
Then **after that he had called** **him** ^{G3588} **lord** **him** **said**
G5119 G4341 G846 G2962 G846 G3004

αὐτῷ Δοῦλε πονηρέ πᾶσαν τὴν ὀφειλὴν ἐκείνην
him **servant** **O thou wicked** **all** ^{G3588} **debt** **that**
G846 G1401 G4190 G3956 G3782 G1565

ἀφ᾽ ἧκά σοι ἐπεὶ παρεκάλεσάς με·
I forgave **thee** **because** **thou desiredst** **me**
G863 G4671 G1893 G3870 G3165

Additional Cross-References

Romans 3:19 (Parallel theme): Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Matthew 25:26 (Evil): His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Luke 19:22 (Evil): And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: