

Treasure Hunt

- What is the significance of the Lord's reference to "seventy times seven"?
- Who brings our sins before the Father for judgment?
- How much is ten thousand talents of silver? How long would you have to work to earn that much money? How does it compare with the hundred pence owed by the second servant?
- Why does the first servant *worship* the king, but the second servant only *beseeches* his creditor?
- How does the bitterness of the first servant affect all of the servants?
- Who may and who may not be angry?
- Which comes first—God's forgiveness of us, or our forgiveness of others?

Relations with Other Disciples

18:1-35 Relations with other disciples

1-4 Question and Answer

Q: 1 Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

A: The Lord divides the question

- 2-3 answers, "Who is in the kingdom?"
- 4 answers, "Who is greatest?"

5-14 Do not give offense

5-9 The Principle

10-14 The Parable: The Wayward Sheep

15-35 Dealing with the sin of others

15-20 The Principle

21-35 The Parable: The Two Debtors

Mat 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom

- all things that **offend**,
- and them which **do iniquity**;

How Many Times?

Seven?

- Sabbath rest
- Sabbatical year
- $7 \times 7 \rightarrow$ Jubilee and forgiveness of debts

Seventy times seven:

Gen 4:23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt. 24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech **seventy and sevenfold.**

“Brought” v. 24 (passive): by whom?

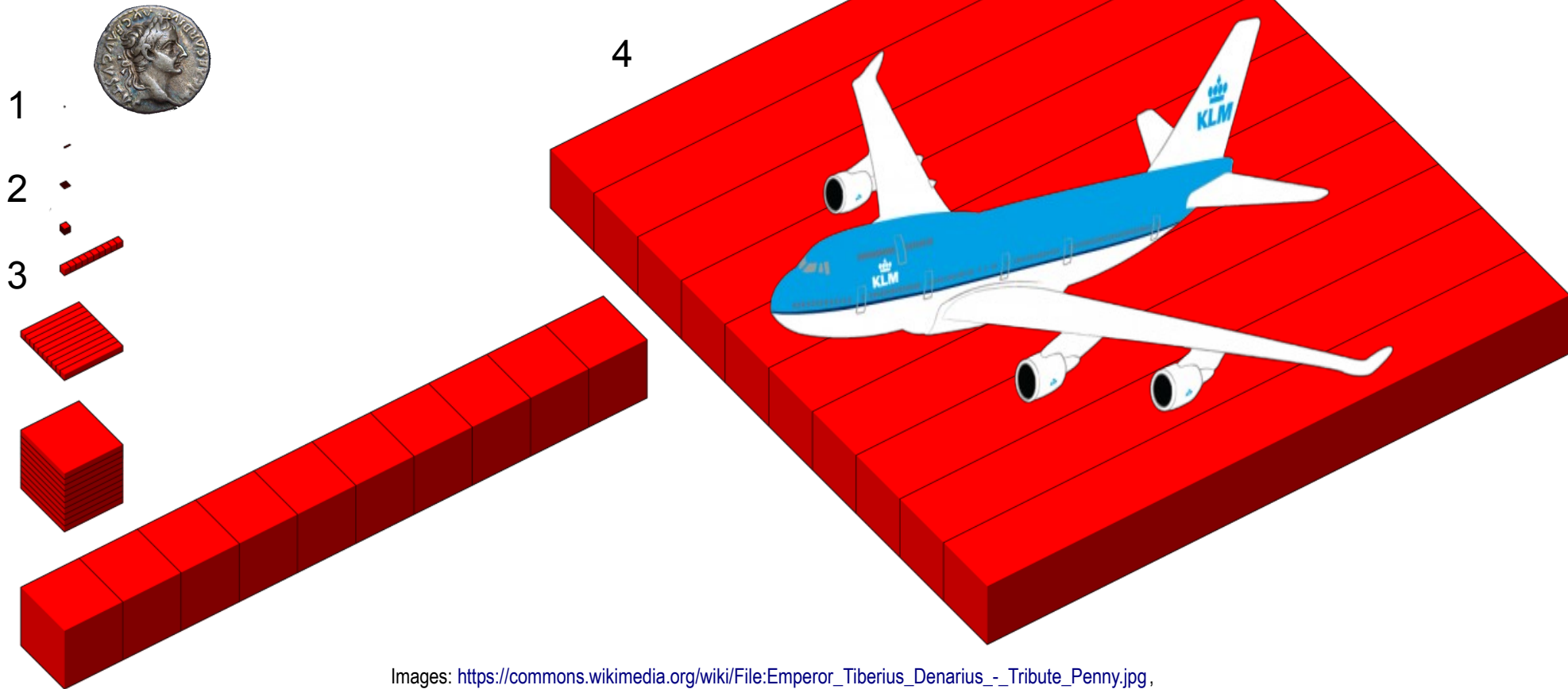
“Satan” ἰσση = “the devil” ο διαβολος = “the accuser,” “the slanderer”

Job 1:9 Then **Satan** answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? ... 11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the **Devil**, and **Satan**, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser** ο κατηγορος of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

How much is 10,000 Talents?

1. Pence (v. 28) = denarius, ~4g, one dime (a day's wages)
2. The second servant's debt: 100 denarii, about one pound, 4 months' wages
3. Talent: 30-40 kg (60-80 pounds), lifetime wages
4. Ten thousand talents, the first servant's debt: about a million pounds, 747 at takeoff, 10,000 people working for a lifetime



Images: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emperor_Tiberius_Denarius_-_Tribute_Penny.jpg,
<http://www.airfranceklm.com/en/fleet/long-courier/boeing-747-400-0>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Visualisation_1_billion.svg

Comparing the Two Servants

24 **one was brought unto him,**

which owed him **ten thousand talents.**

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down,

and **worshipped** him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 Then the lord of that servant was **moved with compassion,**

and **loosed** him,

and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and **found** one of his fellowservants,

which owed him **an hundred pence:**

and he laid hands on him, and **took *him* by the throat**, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet,

and **besought** him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he **would not:**

but went and **cast him into prison,**

till he should pay the debt.

Two Lessons from v. 31

1. The impact of bitterness on others

Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of **bitterness** springing up trouble *you*, and thereby **many be defiled**;

2. The sinfulness of human anger

Psa 37:8 **Cease from anger, and forsake wrath**: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather give place unto [God's] wrath* οργη: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

2Co 12:20 For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and *that* I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest *there be* debates, envyings, **wraths** θυμος, strifes,

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, **wrath** θυμος, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and **wrath** θυμος, and **anger** οργη, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; **anger** οργη, **wrath** θυμος, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

1Ti 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without **wrath** οργη and doubting.

Which comes first?

Recall the Sermon on the Mount:

Mat 5:7 Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Mat 6:12 And forgive us our debts, **as we forgive** our debtors. ... 14
For **if ye forgive** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But **if ye forgive not** men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

God forgives us?

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **even as** God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

We forgive others?

Jam 2:13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

Jam 5:9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

Matt 18:21-35: If we do not forgive others, we have not truly received God's first forgiveness of us.