

Catch the meaning of Matthew 18:21-35

See Fish the Bible ! *Understand Scripture and Apply It to Life*, Stephen H. Wheeler, © 2012 www.fishthebible.org

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