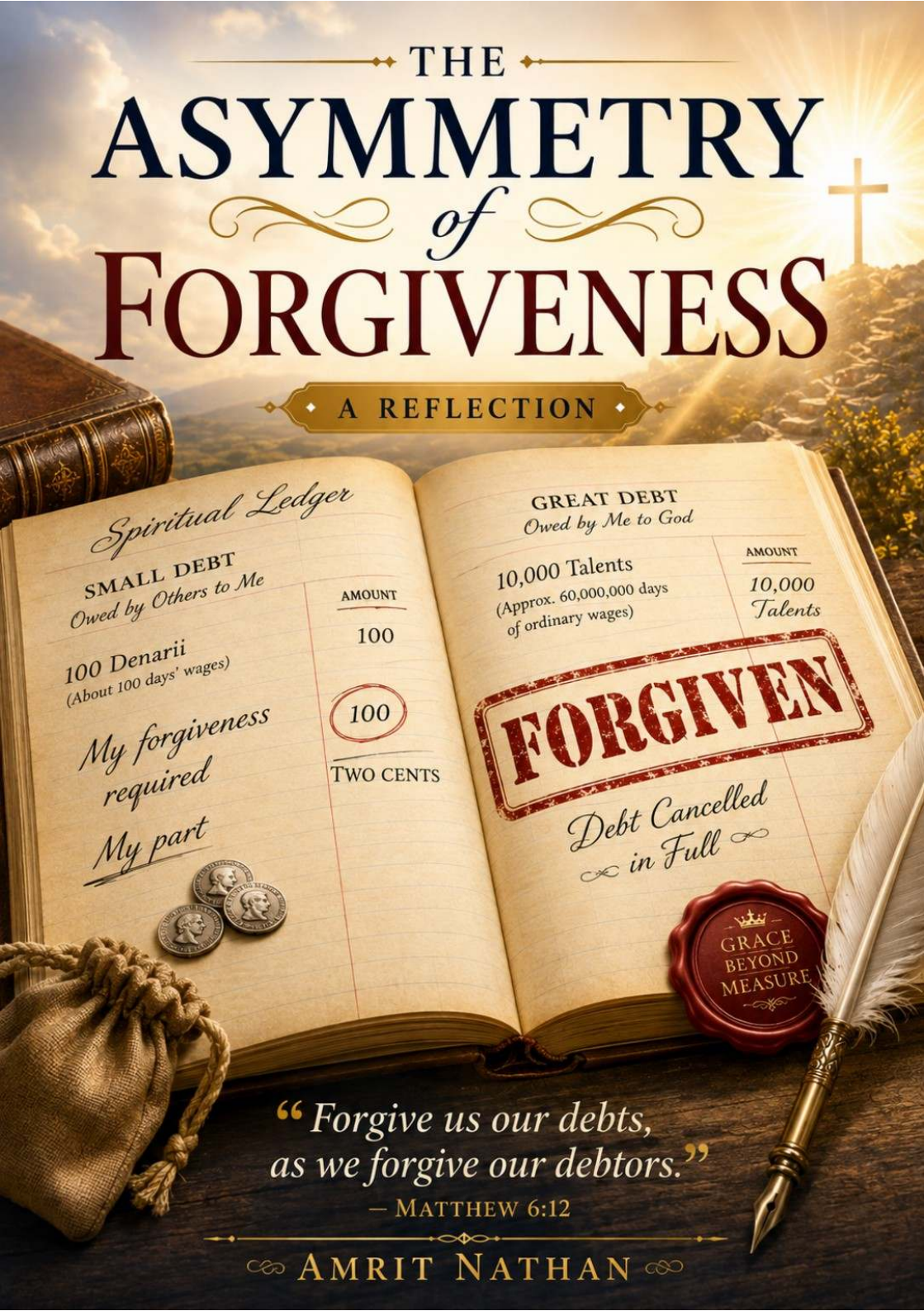
THE ASYMMETRY of FORGIVENESS

A REFLECTION



"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."
— MATTHEW 6:12

AMRIT NATHAN

Sabbath greetings family, and Shalom.

This week, we continue our reflection on **Forgiveness.**

Yahshua gives us two principles which, at first glance, may appear unrelated. Yet they reveal two sides of the same spiritual truth.

THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."
– Matthew 6:12

What we seek from God, we must be willing to extend to others.

THE PRINCIPLE OF GENEROSITY

"Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over…"
– Luke 6:38

Luke 6:38 is often associated with financial giving. But the principle reaches much further.

We can give **mercy.** We can give **grace.** We can give **forgiveness.**

"Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over…"
– Luke 6:38

A little we release, an abundance we receive.

FORGIVENESS IS A FORM OF SPIRITUAL TITHING

When we offer our small "two cents" of forgiveness to someone who has wronged us, we **release** the little that is owed to us—and open our hands to **receive** the immeasurably greater mercy of God.

Peter once asked Yahshua:

"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Yahshua answered:

"I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."
– Matthew 18:21–22

But why such extravagant forgiveness?
The answer is found in the **extraordinary parable** that follows... →

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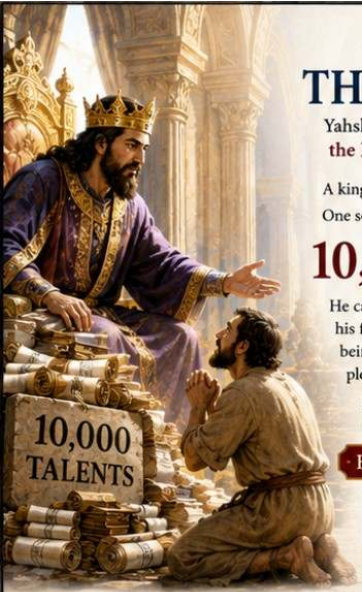
THE MATH OF INFINITE MERCY



Yahshua illustrates His answer to Peter with **the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.**

A king decides to settle accounts with his servants. One servant is brought before him owing:

10,000 TALENTS

He cannot pay. The debt is so enormous that he, his family, and everything he possesses face being sold. He falls before the king and pleads for patience.

But the king does something far greater than grant him more time:

HE CANCELS THE DEBT ENTIRELY.

"Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt."
— Matthew 18:27

THE SHOCKING TURN

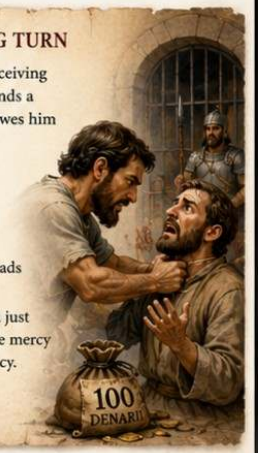
Immediately after receiving mercy, the servant finds a fellow servant who owes him only 100 denarii.

"Pay me that thou owest."

His fellow servant pleads for patience.

But the man who had just received unimaginable mercy refuses to extend mercy.

He has him thrown into prison.



FORGIVEN BY THE KING		REFUSED TO FORGIVE
10,000 *Talents*		100 *Denarii*
1 talent ≈ 6,000 denarii		≈ 100 days' wages (ordinary wages)
≈ 60,000,000 days' wages (ordinary wages)		A comparatively tiny debt
An impossible debt		Treated without mercy
FORGIVEN		**PRISON**

HE WAS FORGIVEN A MOUNTAIN BUT REFUSED TO FORGIVE A HANDFUL.

That is the asymmetry of forgiveness.

Every one of us stands somewhere in this parable.

We have received mercy from above. The question is what we will do with the debts we still hold below.

Will we keep collecting earthly debts—or begin laying up treasure in heaven? ?

Next, Yahshua shows us where our true treasure belongs.

MATTHEW 6:19–21 →

Forgive as you have been forgiven, and you will receive as you have released.

CLEARING THE LEDGER, STORING ANOTHER TREASURE

We spend much of life keeping accounts:

- *What was said to me.*
- *What was done to me.*
- *What I am owed.*

But Yahshua asks us to keep a very different account.

LAY UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN

19 *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:*

20 *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*

21 *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

— Matthew 6:19–21 (KJV)

Every debt we willingly release on earth is treasure we choose not to store and instead entrust to God.

THE GOLDEN RULE

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them," for this is the Law and the Prophets."

— Matthew 7:12 (NKJV) / Luke 6:31

WE HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN AN UNPAYABLE DEBT.

Can we not release the few denarii owed to us?

- *Let us forgive.*
- *Let us release the offense.*
- *Let us clear the ledger.*

And where our treasure is, there our heart will be also.

Shalom,
and have a blessed week ahead!

The greatest wealth is a clean conscience, a forgiven heart, and a place in His Kingdom.
This is the treasure that never fades.