

CANCEL CULTURE

Matthew 18:21-35

What if God...

Making a _____

But not like _____

Examine Jesus' _____

Embrace the _____

Read. Reflect. Respond. Remember.

My children will inevitably make fun of me for taking a pop culture term and using it for the sermon, but the *cancellation* of debt is something that has long interested me, so why not. There's no one I know who doesn't love their debt cancelled, and very few that I know that cancel the debts of others. The fact that Jesus grounds his good news in an economic term / system is also illustrative for us as people run about promoting various economic systems to be the savior of humanity (Socialism and Capitalism as the two dominant ones). Jesus does seem to be interested in our understanding of economics – there is a debt, and He has cancelled it – unless you really, really want to keep going with that system, which he will allow – but it will be torture.

Read Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4.

Reflect:

This is Jesus' teaching on the Lord's Prayer as we know it – and depending on your translation, it will probably say debts or sins in the appropriate place – maybe it will say trespasses. Read them aloud using all three words. How does it change and deepen your understanding of it?

Respond:

Jesus forgives debts/sins/trespasses and invites me to do the same.

Remember: "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' – Matthew 18:32-33