

Millions was the Debt....

Millions was the debt he owed, yet still he pleaded with the king—
and this king, within Christ's story, did forgive him. Everything!
Leaving, though, he met a man with debt to *him*, who pleaded, too,
but he choked him, ord'ring prison till the man paid what was due.

Then the king, who heard about it, called him forward, and enraged,
gave him over to the jailers till those millions were repaid.

Or, a vineyard owner, early, hired some workers, wage agreed.
Through the day, he added others, hired at nine and noon and three.
Five o'clock, with day near ending, he hired those who'd not found work,
and at quitting time, these last received a full day's wage, paid first!

It was *then* the earliest workers, getting paid what they'd agreed,
grumbled at that owner—but he held to generosity.

In these stories taught by Jesus, God is God of Graciousness—
with unfath'mable forgiving, and a richer gen'rousness.
Though we can't repay God's mercies, Christ says mercy God expects.
We repeat it: "God, forgive, as we forgive each other's debts."

And we ask the help of God to grow toward generosity,
knowing mercy, loving mercy, mercy giv'n abundantly.

Text by Constance Morgenstern, ©2023 WordSown.com
Tune is RUSTINGTON by C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918, with the second half of each verse repeated.
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