“The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant”
Sunday, February 3/19

Matthew 18:21-35

“...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” - Matthew 12:6 (ESV)

Why & WHO about this Parable (18:21-22)

1) The Christian’s Forgiveness Should be UNLIMITED (vs. 21-22)
   - Limited to 490 times? (Luke 17:4)
   - Forgiveness should be second nature to the Christian!

2) God’s MERCY is the model for Forgiveness (vs. 23-27)
   - The King can call in debts whenever he wants
   - An unpayable debt (look at the math!)
   - An unthinkable act of Forgiveness!
     - Matthew 6:12

3) The Consequences of UNFORGIVENESS (vs. 28-35)
   - An Absence of Compassion
   - The exact same plea (vs. 26 & 29)
   - Unforgiven sin;
     - Harms relationships
     - Hinders prayer life
     - Damages your witness
     - Stumps your spiritual growth

What is this parable really all about?
- Mercy
- Forgiveness & Consequences
- Final Judgement

Digging Deeper
(For use in personal/family devotions or with your care group)

Q1: Share a story of how you have overcome financial debt (paying off a debt to school, mortgage, car, credit card etc.). How did you feel when the debt was paid?
Q2: Why do you think it is so easy for people to fall so far into debt in today’s culture?
Q3: Read Colossians 3:12-14. Be honest, in what ways do you put limits on forgiveness?
Q4: Read Ephesians 4:17-32. Can you recall a time when it was hard to forgive someone? How did that make you feel?
Q5: Is there someone in your life you prayerfully need to approach and ask for or extend forgiveness to?
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