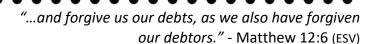


"The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant"

Sunday, February 3/19

Matthew 18:21-35

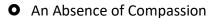


Why & WHO about this Parable (18:21-22)

"The Kingdom of Heaven is Like..." (Matt. 13:24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47, 52, 18:23, 20:1, 22:2, 25:14) "Eschatological Parables" = Things yet to come...

- 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!
 - Matthew 6:14-15, Luke 6:37, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13
- 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







- The exact same plea (vs. 26 & 29)
- Unforgiven sin;
 - Harms relationships
 - Hinders prayer life
 - o Damages your witness
 - Stumps your spiritual growth

What is this parable really all about?

- Mercy
- Forgiveness & Consequences
- Final Judgement

Digging Dooper

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 todays 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?

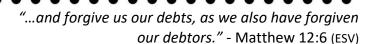
Q5: Is there someone in your life you prayerfully need to approach and ask for or extend forgiveness to?



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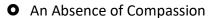


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