



“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)

“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



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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