



"The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant"

Southern Lakes Church

Pastor Ken Brummel 2-15-26

1. Have you ever gone backpacking? If so, what was your longest and/or hardest journey? In what way is unforgiveness like carrying around a heavy pack all day?
2. Why is this parable so relevant to each of us in a world of over 8 billion people?
3. READ Matthew 18:21-35. What are some of your initial observations or questions that come from reading this parable?
4. In what way did this parable continue Jesus' teaching on the kingdom of heaven? (v.23) How did it challenge the common thinking of the day concerning how many times one should forgive?
5. How much did the unforgiving servant owe? What does this amount represent in the parable?
6. Why did the king forgive according to v. 27? What does that mean and how can we be like that?
7. What is "forgiveness" and how did God demonstrate the true meaning to each of us?
8. Why should we "pay it forward" when it comes to forgiveness? Discuss the amount that the second servant owed in comparison to the unforgiving servant.
9. Discuss the following statements in light of how the unforgiving servant treated his fellow servant:
 - "Forgiveness is not just an action it is an attitude?" (see Matt. 10:8; Eph. 4:32, Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14)
 - Forgiveness is a choice.
10. What does it look like to be a grace-giving person? The opposite?
11. What are some of the consequences of unforgiveness? Discuss the Lord's prayer (Matt. 6:12,14-15).
12. What are some of the benefits of forgiveness? [See sermon notes]
13. Discuss the following questions as time permits:
 - Do I need to forgive someone if they don't ask for it?
 - Do I need to forgive myself?
 - Does forgiveness mean forgetting?
14. In what ways does practicing forgiveness make this world a better place? If you are struggling to forgive, what should you do?