



“The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant”

Matthew 18:21-35

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Failing to forgive is like carrying _____.

This parable hits us all where we live because sooner or later one of the 8 billion sinners on planet earth will wrong us.

- Three important lessons on forgiveness...

[1] Forgiveness starts with being _____: (Matt. 18:21-27)

- How many times should we forgive? $70 \times 7 =$ _____
- Jesus was teaching about _____ (v. 23)
- One talent equaled about a day's wages for a common laborer. So, 10,000 talents equaled billions of dollars.
- Why did the king forgive? _____ (v.27)
 - o sympathetic, merciful, loving
- The Greek word for forgiveness carries the idea of ...
 - o (1) pardon. (2) being released from a debt.
 - o Another way to express it = _____!

APPLICATION: What the master did is a clear picture of what Christ did for us. (Eph. 2:8-9) Have you received God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ?

[2] We forgive because _____: (Matt 18:22-33)

- 100 denarii equaled about 100 days wages. This was thousands of dollars, but a pittance compared to what he had been forgiven.
- Forgiveness is not just an _____ it is an _____. (v.28)
 - o Matt. 10:8; Eph. 4:32

- We should have an attitude of _____ toward others because we are recipients of God's _____.
- When we remember what God has done for us it becomes easier to forgive. If we understand how much we have been forgiven (a debt we could never pay), we should be able to forgive others for far less.

APPLICATION: Are you a grace-giving person?

- Why should we forgive others? Because they deserve it? No! v. 33 = “just as” we have been forgiven.
- Forgiveness is a _____.

[3] What goes around _____: (Matt. 18:34-35)

- If you blew it, would you like to be forgiven?
- Unforgiveness comes with _____.
 - o We will not be forgiven. (Matt. 6:12,14-15)
 - o Many other consequences (hatred, bitterness, animosity, anger, retribution, lawsuits, lack of peace, lack of joy, etc.)
- Forgiveness comes with _____.
 - o No guilt (with God or others)
 - o No barriers to the gospel (your story is a powerful example)
 - o No leverage for Satan (anger, grudges, bitterness, etc.)

APPLICATION: Are you quick to forgive and keep current, or do you keep a record of wrongs?

- Do I need to forgive someone if they don't ask for it?
- Do I need to forgive myself?
- Does forgiveness mean forgetting?

Forgiving others is not _____ but it is the best choice!