

# PARABLES: THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

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## The Unforgiving Servant

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

<sup>23</sup> "Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. <sup>24</sup> In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. <sup>25</sup> He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. <sup>26</sup> "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' <sup>27</sup> Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. <sup>28</sup> "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. <sup>29</sup> "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. <sup>30</sup> But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

<sup>31</sup> "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart." Matthew 18:23-35

I) The Actors:

- A) The \_\_\_\_\_.
- B) The debtor - "the \_\_\_\_\_ servant."
- C) The \_\_\_\_\_ servant.
- D) The \_\_\_\_\_ servants.

II) The main action: Unforgiveness versus \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness.

### How to Forgive Unconditionally:

- I) \_\_\_\_\_ God's unconditional forgiveness to me.
  - A) Matthew 18:23-24

B) "Come now, let's settle this," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool. Isaiah 1:18

II) \_\_\_\_\_ my desire for revenge.

A) Matthew 18:28

B) Forgiveness is a \_\_\_\_\_, it's not an \_\_\_\_\_.

C) Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD. Romans 12:17-19

III) \_\_\_\_\_ unconditional forgiveness to others.

A) Matthew 18:33

B) The challenge: God's way of \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness.

C) You can either \_\_\_\_\_ the hurt, or you can \_\_\_\_\_ the hurt.

D) Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Colossians 3:13

IV) \_\_\_\_\_ the process.

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven! Matthew 18:21-22

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:14-15