

Parable of the Unforgiving (Unjust) Servant (Matt. 18:21-35)

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Introduction:

1. **CONTEXT:**
 - a. Jesus teaching about humility (disciples ask who is the greatest :1) + the severity of sin (cut off offending member) (:1-14)
 - b. Jesus teaching about dealing with a brother who offends – and how we ought for forgive them (:15-17)
 - i. Go to them alone (:15)
 - ii. Take one or two more (:16)
 - iii. Take it to the church (:17)
 - c. Note: :6, 10-11, 14, 21-22
2. Parable in response to Peter's question: **Mt. 18:21-22**

Discussion:

I. King and his Servant

- A. **Matt. 18:22-27**
- B. This servant owed 10,000 talents (:24)
 - a. 1 talent = 6000 denarii
 - b. 1 Denarius = 1 day's wage
 - c. Debt = 160,000 – 200,000 years' worth of wages (i.e. could never be repaid)
- C. Unable to pay = sold along with family (:25) [**Lev 25:39**]
- D. Pleads for patience (mercy) (:26)
- E. King has compassion and forgave the debt (:27)

II. Servant and his fellow servant

- A. **Matt. 18:28-30**
- B. This fellow servant owed 100 pence (denarii) (:28a)
 - a. 1 Denarius = 1 day's wage
 - b. Debt = 100 day's wages (1/3 of a year) (i.e. still a large debt, but could be repaid)
- C. Laid hands and took him by the throat saying pay me that thou owes (:28b)
- D. Pleads for patience (mercy) (:29) (**cf. :26**)
- E. Showed no mercy and cast into prison (:30)

III. Response of the King

- A. **Matt. 18:31-34**
- B. Fellow servants took note (:31)
- C. King confronted unforgiving servant – should have had compassion as I had pity (:32-33)
- D. King cast unforgiving servant to the tormenters (:34)

IV. Application

A. **Matt. 18:35**

- B. The King is the Father, we are the servant, others are the fellow servant
- C. We owe the father a debt that could never be repaid
 - a. **Rom. 6:23** = the wages of sin = death
 - b. **Heb. 2:1-3** – how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation
 - c. **Heb. 10:28-31** – how much sorer punishment...
- D. The father showed mercy to us – therefore we should show mercy --- else we will be cast out as well
 - a. **Ps. 103:8-14** – the lord is merciful and gracious
 - b. **Mt. 5:7** – blessed are merciful → obtain mercy
 - c. **Js. 2:8-13** – if we show no mercy, we will be judged w/o mercy
 - d. **Col. 3:13/Eph. 4:32** – forgive as God forgave us
- E. For our forgiveness is dependent on our forgiveness of others!
 - a. **Matt. 6:12,14-15** – if we forgive, we will be forgiven
 - b. **Mk. 11:25-26** – when we stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any. If you don't...
- F. As we have been relieved of an impossible debt, our forgiveness of others should be unlimited
 - a. **Matt. 18:21-22** – 7 times? (complete), no 70*7
 - b. **Luke 17:3-5** – again if they come 7 (complete) times in a day, rebuke, repent → forgive
- G. Process of Forgiveness (Mt. 18:15-17)
 - a. **Rebuke** alone
 - i. **If he repents, forgive him**
 - b. If not, take one or two more
 - i. **If he repents, forgive him**
 - c. If not, take it to the church
 - i. **If he repents, forgive him**
 - d. If not, let him be as a heathen/publican

Conclusion:

1. We owe an unpayable debt to God
2. Through His infinite mercy, we have access to forgiveness through the blood of Christ
3. As such we have the responsibility of forgiving others
4. Our eternity depends on it!
5. How are we doing?
6. If you are here and sin separates you from God, He stands ready and willing to forgive you if you will but obey!