



Senior Bible Study Ministry

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>



Spirit
of
Forgiveness



The Parable Of The Unmerciful Servant

Matthew 18 (NIV)

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him.”

Matthew 18 (NIV)

25 “Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 28 But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.”

Matthew 18 (NIV)

“He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. 29 His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ 30 But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.”

Matthew 18 (NIV)

32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Main Point

In The Parable Of The Unmerciful Servant, Jesus teaches us to embrace the profound importance of practicing genuine forgiveness in our lives.

Forgiveness

A serene sunset scene over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The waves are gentle and rhythmic, with white foam visible as they break. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative. The word "Forgiveness" is written in a large, black, serif font, centered horizontally and slightly above the horizon line.

Forgiveness

- In this parable Jesus emphasizes the importance of forgiveness
- God's forgiveness is infinite & unconditional, mirroring the forgiveness we should extend to others

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12 NIV)

Forgiveness

- Forgiving others sets us free from bitterness & resentment, allowing us to experience peace

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13 NIV)

- Forgiving is not optional; it is a command from God

25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” (Mark 11:25 NIV)

Forgiveness

- Forgiving is not optional; it is a command from God

25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” (Mark 11:25 NIV)

- When we forgive, we reflect God’s grace & mercy

*32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
(Ephesians 4:32 NIV)*

Forgiveness

- Forgiveness restores broken relationships & brings healing

*18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:
19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

(2 Corinthians 5:18-19 NIV)

Forgiveness

- It takes humility to acknowledge our own need for forgiveness & to extend it to others
- Sometimes, forgiveness is a journey that requires time & God's help

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6 NIV)



UNFORGIVENESS

Unforgiveness

- Unforgiveness leads to bitterness, anger, & spiritual bondage

15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. (Hebrews 12:15 NIV)

- Jesus warns that if we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us

15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:15 NIV)

Unforgiveness

- Holding onto offenses leads to resentment, which poisons our hearts

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

(Ephesians 4:31 NIV)

- When we harbor unforgiveness, it can hinder our prayers

25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” (Mark 11:25 NIV)

Unforgiveness

- It causes us to focus on the wrongs of others rather than on God's grace

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (Romans 12:17-19 NIV)

Unforgiveness

- The enemy uses unforgiveness to trap us in a cycle of pain & separation from God

10 Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, 11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (2 Corinthians 2:10-11 NIV)

JUDGEMENT
IS
COMING



Judgement is Coming

- God's judgment is just & righteous & He alone has the authority to judge

8 He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity. (Psalm 9:8 NIV)

- In the parable, the unmerciful servant's unforgiveness leads to severe consequences
- Jesus teaches that the measure we use to judge others will be used against us

Judgement is Coming

- We are called to forgive & leave judgment to God

19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (Romans 12:19 NIV)

Judgement is Coming

- There will be a final judgment where God will hold everyone accountable for their actions

12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

(Revelation 20:12-13 NIV)

Judgement is Coming

- God's mercy is greater than judgment & He desires to extend mercy to all

13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment. (James 2:13 NIV)

Judgement is Coming

- Repentance is key in avoiding God's judgment & receiving His forgiveness

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, (Acts 3:19 NIV)

Practical Applications

- **Daily Reflection:** Spend time each day reflecting on whether there is anyone you need to forgive
- **Pray for Strength:** Ask God to give you the strength & grace to forgive those who have wronged you
- **Seek Reconciliation:** If possible, take steps to reconcile with those who have hurt you
- **Release Offenses:** Make a habit of releasing offenses to God, trusting Him to handle justice

Practical Applications

- **Practice Humility:** Regularly practice humility by acknowledging your own need for forgiveness
- **Study God's Word:** Immerse yourself in Scripture to understand more deeply God's call to forgive
- **Live in the Present:** Focus on living in the present moment, letting go of past hurts

Discussion Questions

- How does understanding God's forgiveness towards us impact our ability to forgive others?
- What are some of the challenges you face when trying to forgive, and how can you overcome them?
- In what ways can holding onto unforgiveness affect your relationship with God and others?
- What steps can you take to avoid a judgmental spirit and instead live out God's grace in your relationships?



Spirit
of
Forgiveness



The Parable Of The Unmerciful Servant

A scenic view of a beach with waves, a large white cross on the left, and birds in the sky.

Senior Bible Study Ministry

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>