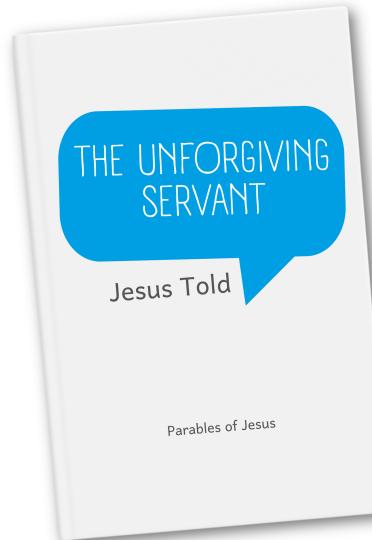


Questions

1. Read Psalm 130:1-4. What's your response to what you've read?
2. What was the conversation at the start of Matthew 18 that led to Jesus teaching about sinners repenting and giving forgiveness?
3. Read Matthew 18:15. What does it mean to win your brother and why is that so important to Jesus?
4. What was Jesus conveying when He answered Peter, "I tell you, not as many as seven, but seventy times seven"?
5. Can you recall a recent time when you were more focused on exposing an offender's sin than on seeking to gently restore that person and moving toward forgiveness?
6. How is the outcome of the stubbornly unrepentant sinner (18:17) like that of that of the professing believer who is unwilling to lean in toward the offender with a heart that is eager to show mercy (18:35)?
7. What are some ways that you keep your heart fixed on the magnitude of how God has forgiven you? Why is this vital for citizens of God's kingdom?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with you.*

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Matthew 18:21-35

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Lead Pastor

April 21, 2024

This parable compels us to look in two directions. We are to see our own glaring reflection in the disciple's petty question and in the servant's unmerciful response. But we are also to set our gaze on the unparalleled mercy of our King, who has forgiven the ledger of our sins against Him.

The Parable's Introduction (18:21-22) and Its Preceding Context

"Then" in v. 21 points the reader back to the preceding context.

Three Insights from the Preceding Context

1. This is sin between members of God's kingdom.
2. When interpersonal sin occurs, a goal should be reconciliation.
3. The instructions in 18:15-17 focus on the sinner's need to repent and the community's response. The parable focuses on the response of the one sinned against, and his or her willingness to forgive.

A defining mark of citizens of God's Kingdom is a willingness to make forgiveness a lifestyle. Forgiving brothers and sisters should be normal, not exceptional (Matthew 18:22).

The Parable Displays the Glaring Reflection of Our Own Lack of Mercy

What is forgiveness?

- A release from bondage or captivity.
- An act of grace.
- A commitment to not bring the sin back up against the one forgiven.

The Parable Directs Our Gaze to the Model of the Unparalleled Mercy of our King

The Parable

Set in the context of citizenship in God's kingdom

A debtor of massive proportions

The harsh response of the forgiven servant