

# MESSAGE NOTES

## “Practical Teaching for Everyday Living”

### THE PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

MATTHEW 18: 21-35

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**Parable** - “The parables of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels are **similes or metaphors**, sometimes **extended into narratives**, which involve everyday life and objects and typical events of households, farms, and royal courts. They are a **primary means of Jesus’ teaching**, closely connected to the main focus of his teaching, the coming of the kingdom of God.” Myers, A. C. (1987). In The Eerdmans Bible dictionary (p. 793).

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**CONTEXT** - \_\_\_\_\_

*“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. Matt. 18:15-17*

#### QUESTION

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, **“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”**

Jesus answered, **“I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.** Matt. 18:21-22

**WINDOW of what THE KINGDOM OF GOD is** \_\_\_\_\_

*“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 talents** was brought to him. 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.*

*“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.** Matt. 18:24-27*

**WINDOW of what THE KINGDOM OF GOD is** \_\_\_\_\_

*“But when that **servant went out,** he found one of **his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii.** He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.*

*“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, **‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’***

*“But he refused. Instead, **he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.** Matt. 18:28-30*

WINDOW of what THE KINGDOM OF GOD is \_\_\_\_\_

When the other servants saw what had happened, **they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.**

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘**You wicked servant,**’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me too. 33 **Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?**’ 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. Matt. 18:31-34

### **MIRRORS: Three IMPORTANT TRUTHS about FORGIVENESS**

1. The SOURCE of our \_\_\_\_\_ is GOD’S FORGIVENESS

- LOOK AT THE CROSS

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

2. OUR REFUSAL TO FORGIVE IS \_\_\_\_\_

S. I. McMillen says, ***“The moment I start hating a man I become his slave. He even controls my thoughts. I can’t escape his Tyrannical grasp my mind.”***

3. THE SECRET OF FORGIVENESS IS \_\_\_\_\_

***“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.” Matt. 18:35***

God’s grace **does not free us from responsibility it actually gives us an obligation.** If we have received grace we are obligated to give this grace away to others. If we do not then Jesus says we will be treated like to Unmerciful servant - who was tortured for all of eternity.