

## **The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**

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A **parable** is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

### **Matthew 18:21-35 – The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!

<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.”

## THREE REASONS WHY I FORGIVE OTHERS

**#1. I must forgive others because God has \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”*

**-Matthew 6:12 (NIV)**

*“Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.” -Matthew 18:27 (NLT)*

**#2. I must forgive others because resentment \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.” -Matthew 18:34 (NLT)*

**#3. I must forgive others because I need forgiveness \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.” -Matthew 18:35 (NLT)*

*“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 (NLT)**

