

Parables of Jesus part 10

Various Scriptures

“And the disciples said to the Lord, Increase our faith.” -Luke 17:5

What would you say is the number 1 mark of a true servant of God?

1 Samuel 15:22-23; John 14:23

Why is it so important?

*Jesus calls us to practice it

*It is an act of worship

*God _____ it

*It proves our love

*It demonstrates Faith

*It is better than sacrifice

*It promotes holy living

The parable of the Master and Servant: Luke 17:7-10

Context:

Jesus had been sharing with his disciples about how to handle offenses; those causing other people to sin and those who sin against their fellow man. He gives them specific instructions to rebuke them and if they repent, forgive them. Regardless of how many times they sinned, Jesus instructs them to forgive. In response the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith.

Do you need God to increase your faith when it comes to rebuking and forgiving others in love? _____ Even now we justify our position of unforgiveness by saying things like “They didn’t come to me and repent, so I don’t forgive them.” but notice what Jesus says in Matthew 5:23-24

Did you know forgiving others is something God commands us to do? (Mark 11:26) In other words, Jesus is telling them and us, although it is hard to forgive others who have wronged us we can do it by trusting and depending on the word of God.

This parable speaks to the root of our unforgiveness which is _____ and entitlement.

The role of the servant: verse 7

Greek word for servant: doulos; meaning slave.

To the Jews in the first century Roman empire, slavery was a fact of life. The average person didn’t own slaves, but there were some villages with wealthy people who did. Some were tutors, physicians, companions, household managers, sales agents, and administrators. The slave in the parable however was one of hard labor.

What were some of his responsibilities?

*Take care of livestock

* _____ the fields

The reason of the master: verses 7-9

What master do you know will call his servant in and tell him to sit down and eat?

Instead, the master will instruct him to continue his responsibilities which in light of this parable were to:

*Prepare a _____

*Handle his household _____

Why doesn't the master tell the servant to sit and eat? Is this fair of the master? Why or why not?

Again we see another question. What master do you know will thank his servant because he did what was commanded? Keep in mind this is an employee-employer relationship meaning the employee has been _____ to do a specific job.

After the servant has done what he was hired to do, why doesn't he thank him? Is this fair of the master? Why or why not?

Resounding application for the disciples: verse 10

In the same way, when you have done all that you were commanded, you should say. "We are worthless servants; we've only done our duty."

In light of all that God has done for us, who are we to question or complain when He asks us to do something like offer or accept someone's forgiveness?

The duty of a servant is to _____ and _____ his master.

Unfortunately the reason why so many Christians lack the faith to forgive is because we are not in tune with God's will and word. Instead of following His instructions we are too busy making demands.

Do you think society has shifted on obeying authority and doing one's duty? Has God changed his stance? _____

What happens when we drop ideas like "duty" and "obedience" from our relationship with God?

*We _____ the meaning of what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus. John 8:31

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant: Matthew 18:23-24

Context:

Same topic of discussion as before; dealing with and offending brother. However Matthew provides more detail in Jesus' illustrations and instructions for reconciliation. He also highlights a question from posed by Peter about how often should we forgive and offender.

Steps to reconciliation: Matthew 18:15-17

- #1 Go to your brother or sister and try to work things out between each other.
- #2 Take one or two witnesses and try to work things out.
- #3 Share the problem with the church to work things out.
- #4 Excommunication; not to shun, but to remove him/her as a detrimental influence from the fellowship; they are to be regarded as an evangelical prospect not a brother or sister.

Do you find this approach to be beneficial when handling conflict and disagreements? Why or why not?

Illustration: Matthew 18:18-20

Bind and loose; the point here is when a sinful matter is taken before the church after a continual refusal to repent, and a decision is made by the church according to the Word of God about an erring member, the church has the authority to act and Heaven backs it up.

*Where two or three agree in prayer on earth, it will be done in heaven.

What are some ways this is taken out of context?

Question: Peter asks, How many times should I forgive a brother or sister who sins against me? Up to 7 times? The custom in their day was 3 times, but Jesus tells him ____ times ____! Which is ____

Accounts of the King: verses 23-27

As the king is settling all of his accounts, one of his servants owed 10 thousand talents = 1 million dollars. The Bible says this man did not have enough to repay so in order to settle his account his master demanded his _____, _____, and everything he owned be sold to pay his debt.

How would you respond if you had this much debt? _____

The servant in the parable:

*Fell on his _____

*Asked for patience

In response the King had compassion and _____ his debt.

Accounts of the Servant: verses 28-30

Likewise the servant went out to settle his accounts with all of his fellow servants. In the process he found one who owed him 100 denarii = 100 dollars. The Bible says he immediately became hostile. Some translations say he put hands on him.

Say what?

*He grabbed him

*Started _____ him

*Demanded his money

Just like he did with the king, his fellow servant, fell on his face and began begging for patience. But instead of forgiving his debt, he put his fellow servant in prison.

As you consider your account with God and your account with your fellow brother's and sister's, is there anything that someone owes you more than God has provided? Why is it so hard for us to forgive one another?

Amazement of the people: verses 31-33

*The people were so distraught they had seen and heard they went back and _____ everything to the king.

*The king was so frustrated with the servant's actions he questioned his _____. "Shouldn't you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?"

Aftermath of unforgiveness: verse 34

What happened to the unmerciful servant?

-Handed over to the _____

- _____ until he settled his debts

What does this sound like? _____

Application for all people: verse 35

Jesus says, so also my heavenly Father will do to you unless every one of you forgives his brother or sister from your heart.

Do you think it's healthy to forget the wrong someone has done? Why or why not?

What are some examples of unforgiveness you have heard or witnessed in the world?

*"God forgives, I don't"

*

*"Try Jesus, don't try me"

*

As you reflect on the sin debt Jesus paid in full on your behalf, what are two things you can do to remind yourself to always be ready to forgive others.

Here are 5 scriptures to commit to memory about God's forgiveness:

Numbers 14:19-21

Psalms 103:12

Isaiah 43:25

Acts 3:19

1 John 1:9

"You'll never know how strong your heart is until you learn to forgive who broke it." -Anonymous