

Leaders Resource for the Unforgiving Servant – Matthew 18 v 21-35

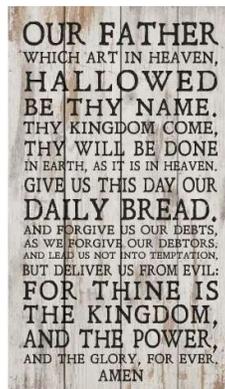
Key points to note:

- Jesus in this parable illustrates the importance of being forgiven and then forgiving others
- When we don't forgive it becomes self destructive.
- In Bible times the Jewish people were told that it was enough to forgive 3 times. In this parable we see Jesus says that we are to forgive 70 times 7, that means we should forgive without counting how often.
- The parable shows and explains how we should act towards each other.
- We see that the first servant was unrealistic when with pride and lack of sincere repentance he asked for his huge debt to be repaid – it could never have been achieved even over many lifetimes.
- The king was a man of compassion
- It was not unusual, and even until recent times that someone could be put in prison for non payment of debts.
- In Bible times the average person earned 1 denarii per day.
- It was the first servants' selfish attitude that put him in prison again after he had been forgiven and freed.
- See the resources on the work programmes

So the symbolism in the parable

Parable		Today
King	Represents	God
First Servant	Represents	Us
Debt	Represents	Such a huge sum that there is nothing that we can do to ever redeem our sins.
King's compassion	Represents	Salvation which is a gift showing the mercy and love of God
Second Servant	Represents	Are those around us, whatever their indebtedness to us, it will always be much less than what God has given us
First Servants' attitude	Represents	When we receive the gift of Salvation from God, we then need to be faithful to God's instruction and guidance. The saying 'Pride comes before a fall' and pride can separate us from God's plan for our lives.

As we say the Lords' Prayer daily, we are reminded of the debt paid and our responsibility to forgive others daily.



Resources referred to in the response booklets

Story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ht5AyphBx1w>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7F8u3ymfn8#action=share>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IbKfXZbZPw;>
<https://uk.video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=iphone&p=the+unforgiving+servant#id=3&vid=46e0adcef5ebf71af275c965ee428d13&action=click>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMco8OZoYAI>

The forgiveness song : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SKlrZpZG0I>

Forgiveness by Matthew West : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMn0QNduiGE>