

## Jesus' Parable of The Unmerciful Servant

We must practice forgiving others  
from our heart as God has  
forgiven us  
Mat 18:21-35

## Introduction

- A parable is an earthly story designed to teach a spiritual lesson through a comparison
- Parables were designed to conceal truth from the hardened hearts while appealing to the eagerness of honest hearers to seek and know their truth
- Many parables focused on the nature of the kingdom of God, its King and its citizens

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## Introduction

- Today, Jesus' church is the visible manifestation of His kingdom
- The parable of the unmerciful servant only found in Matthew
- We must forgive others as God forgives us
- But, on what conditions does God forgive us?
- Are we to forgive others without conditions?

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## Jesus' Parable of The Unmerciful Servant

1. Background
2. The parable
3. Applications

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## Background to the parable of the unmerciful servant

Mat 18:15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

Mat 18:16 "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.

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## Background to the parable of the unmerciful servant

Mat 18:17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Mat 18:18 "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

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## Background to the parable of the unmerciful servant

Mat 18:19 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.

Mat 18:20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

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We must never stop forgiving others because God never stops forgiving us

Mat 18:21 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

Mat 18:22 Jesus \*said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

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## The parable of the unmerciful servant

Mat 18:23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

Mat 18:24 "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

Mat 18:25 "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. <sup>9</sup>

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## The parable of the unmerciful servant

Mat 18:26 "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.'

Mat 18:27 "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.

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## The parable of the unmerciful servant

Mat 18:28 "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'

Mat 18:29 "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'

## The parable of the unmerciful servant

Mat 18:30 "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

Mat 18:31 "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

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## The parable of the unmerciful servant

Mat 18:32 "Then summoning him, his lord \*said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

Mat 18:33 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'

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## The parable of the unmerciful servant

Mat 18:34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

Mat 18:35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

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## We are to forgive others from our heart as God has forgiven us

Mat 18:33 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'

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## We are to forgive others from our heart as God has forgiven us

- In order to forgive others from our heart, we must understand God's merciful heart toward us
- Then, out of appreciation to God for forgiving us our unpayable debt of sin, we are eager and ready to forgive others who seek the same mercy from God
- In the parable, the servant owed the king 10,000 talents

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## We are to forgive others from our heart as God has forgiven us

- A denarius was one day's wage for a common laborer
- A talent was 98-100 pounds of coins, each coin a day's wage
- One talent equals about 6,000 days' wages
- 10,000 talents equals about 60,000,000 days' wages, a debt that was beyond payment

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## We are to forgive others from our heart as God has forgiven us

- We must come to God humbly and lowly, without hope of paying our unpayable debt, pleading for His forgiveness
- When we minimize or deny our sins before God and our absolute need for His mercy, we will become unmerciful servants who are unwilling to forgive others from our heart

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## The price of our forgiveness is the blood of Jesus

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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## The price of our forgiveness is the blood of Jesus

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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## We sometimes demand more of others than God does

- The forgiven slave found the slave who owed him 100 days' wages
- Although this slave begged for patience, he threw him in prison, was unmerciful to him, over such a small debt in comparison to the unpayable debt the king had forgiven him
- We can fail to forgive others because we demand more of them than God does

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## We sometimes demand more of others than God does

- We use what we often term "the consequences of sin" as either a shield or justification for continuing in sinful unforgiving behavior toward those who seek to be forgiven by God
- God says if they repent, forgive them!

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## If they repent, forgive them!

Luk 17:3 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

Luk 17:4 "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

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## If they repent, forgive them!

1Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

1Co 5:2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

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## If they repent, forgive them!

1Co 5:11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--not even to eat with such a one.

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## If they repent, forgive them!

2Co 2:6 Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority,

2Co 2:7 so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

2Co 2:8 Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.

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## If they repent, forgive them!

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

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## We will be eternally lost if we do not forgive others from our heart

Mat 18:34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

Mat 18:35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

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