

July 01, 2018



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant Matt 18:21-35

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reveals to us that Christ-like forgiveness has no limits through the **Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**. The study's aim is to learn to forgive others just as God has forgiven us. The study's application is to be prepared to forgive others without reservations.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

As a boy, I remember watching a particular old family show on television. Many of the stories had a distinct moral lesson, often very simple but also very compelling. Some of the Lord's parables have similar qualities. The fact that they are easy to understand does not undermine their power to teach and convict. Our text is part of the Lord's response to Peter's powerful question about forgiveness in Matthew 18:21. The Lord could have answered very simply by saying something like, "Be forgiving of others since God has been forgiving toward you," which is, after all, the point of the Lord's answer. However, the Lord instead told a simple but powerful story, with a point so obvious that all should grasp it quickly. It is the story of the unforgiving servant. The key to understanding this parable is to see the contrast between the attitude and behavior of the king toward his servant and that same servant's attitude and behavior toward his fellow servant. The unforgiving servant owed the king a vast sum he could not pay—ten thousand talents (Matt. 18:24). The king demanded a reckoning but elected not to punish the servant after he pled for mercy and humbly asked for more time to pay. The king exhibited "compassion," a term that points to feelings of pity toward someone in trouble or affliction. When confronting a fellow servant who owed him a rather paltry sum (a hundred pence), however, that same servant did not respond with the same compassion. He had him cast into prison. A more striking contrast could not be imagined. The king forgave a great debt, while the very servant who received that forgiveness would not turn around and forgive a relatively small debt. The language of Matthew 18:33 points to the heart of the issue. Should not the servant have been compelled to extend the same forgiveness he had received? Those who receive mighty forgiveness should extend grace to others. If this does not happen, there has been a failure to internalize God's justice and mercy. We are called to live justly and with forgiveness. Why would we not do this? Have not we as sinners been forgiven a great debt? We must be forgiving to other sinners, particularly our brothers and sisters in the Lord. The terms "compassion" and "pity" are used in our text. However, in the original language, the same term is behind both words. Because we are guilty of sin, we should have genuine sympathy and understanding toward our fellow sinners. No one has everything in life in order. We all fall short. Because God has been forgiving toward us, so we should be forgiving toward others. That is the lesson of the powerful parable of the unforgiving servant. There is a bit of a warning at the end of the Lord's comments (Matt. 18:35). Our relationship with our Heavenly Father is not in the right place if we are failing to forgive others. Who do we need to forgive—a family member, friend, pastor, church member, or a coworker? The Lord does not want us to do what the unforgiving servant did; to do that would displease our merciful Heavenly Father.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Even on the cross, Jesus forgave those who hurt Him

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Lord Jesus Christ, through Your grace and power as You dwell in me, help me to forgive, that Your love will set me free

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.
(Luke 23:34 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 11, 2017)

**Series: Justice in the
New Testament**

**UNIT: Jesus Calls for Justice
and Mercy**

NEXT WEEK

**Jesus Criticizes
Unjust Leaders
(Matt 23:1-8, 23-26)**

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Receiving Forgiveness (Matt 18:21-27)

Frequency of forgiveness (vs 21-22)

Forgive others as often as God forgives us (Matt 6:14-15)

Forgiving is overcoming evil with good (Rom 12:21)

Forgive each day so as to not give the devil a foothold (Eph 4:26-27)

Forgiving is commanded (Eph 4:32)

Forgive with love (Col 3:13-14)

It is to man's glory to forgive (Prov 19:11)

Need for forgiveness (vs 23-25)

Forgiveness is needed because all will face judgment (Heb 9:27)

Forgiveness is needed because of being accountable to God (Rom 14:12)

Forgiveness is needed because God will avenge (Rom 12:18-20)

Forgiveness is needed because although we cannot repay God, it is one way of showing our gratitude (Ps 116:12)

Forgiveness is needed because of remembering God's blessings (Ps 103:2-3)

Requirements for forgiveness (vs 26)

Humility (James 4:10)

God's Patience (2 Peter 3:15)

Faithfulness of God (1 John 1:9)

Results of forgiveness (vs 27)

God's compassion (Ps 86:15)

Sin will never be counted against us (Rom 4:7-8)

There is no longer any need of another sacrifice (Heb 10:18)

Answered prayer (James 5:15)

Giving Forgiveness (Matt 18:28-35)

Everyone owes something (vs 28)

We owe the government (Mark 12:13-17)

We owe something, even if it nothing but respect (Rom 13:7)

We owe everyone love (Rom 13:8)

Forgiveness requires patience (vs 29-30)

Requires patience because it is one of the fruit of the Spirit, which is needed to forgive (Gal 5:22-23)

Requires patience because it allows us to bear with others (Col 3:12-13)

Requires patience because it is one of the elements of love (1 Cor 13:4-8)

Requires patience because it is commanded (Eph 4:2)

Requires patience because it keeps us from grumbling with others (James 5:7-9)

Someone always watches how I treat others (vs 31)

Some watch for recognition (John 18:26)

Some watch intently to see sincerity (Acts 6:15)

Some watch for knowledge (Acts 4:13)

Some watch the words used (Acts 8:6)

Some watch for advantages (Acts 8:18)

God judges me on how I forgive others (vs 32)

God judges based on how we judge others (Matt 7:1-2)

God forgives us in proportion to how we forgive others (Mark 11:25)

Being merciful triumphs over judgment (James 2:12-13)

Being angry with others makes us subject to God's judgment (Matt 5:22)

Forgiveness requires compassion (vs 33)

Compassion to answer the cries of the poor (Prov 21:13)

Compassion from being in unity with the Holy Spirit (Phil 2:1)

Having compassion because of being one of God's chosen people (Col 3:12)

Compassion that makes us look out for the interest of others (Phil 2:4)

Compassionate because it is commanded (1 Peter 3:8-9)

There are consequences for not forgiving others (vs 34-35)

Consequence of possible imprisonment (Matt 5:25)

Consequence of God's punishment (2 Thess 1:8)

Consequence of being ostracized (2 Tim 3:1-5)

Consequence of being judged by God and sitting against His law (James 4:11-12)