

## The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

November 3, 2016

### Matthew 18:21-35 NASB

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?"

22 Jesus said to him, "**I DO NOT SAY TO YOU, UP TO SEVEN TIMES, BUT UP TO SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN.**

*Forgiveness is never optional. We must have a heart always ready to forgive.*

*Forgiveness is immediate and restores communication and fellowship. Trust is proven and may in some cases take time. But the proving of trust must never be a form of retaliation.*

*With repeated offense and abuse, establishing boundaries and space is necessary and wise.*

Matthew 7:6 NASB

6 "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces."

### Matthew 18:21-35 NASB

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

24 "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him **ten thousand talents** (1 talent = 15-20 years of wages or 150,000 years to pay back) was brought to him.

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.

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

27 "**AND THE LORD OF THAT SLAVE FELT COMPASSION AND RELEASED HIM AND FORGAVE HIM THE DEBT.**

28 "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a **hundred denarii** (1 denarius = 1 day's wage); and **HE SEIZED HIM** and **BEGAN TO CHOKE HIM**, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'

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.'

30 "**BUT HE WAS UNWILLING AND WENT AND THREW HIM IN PRISON UNTIL HE SHOULD PAY BACK WHAT WAS OWED.**

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.

32 "**THEN SUMMONING HIM, HIS LORD SAID TO HIM, 'YOU WICKED SLAVE, I FORGAVE YOU ALL THAT DEBT BECAUSE YOU PLEADED WITH ME.**

33 '**SHOULD YOU NOT ALSO HAVE HAD MERCY ON YOUR FELLOW SLAVE, IN THE SAME WAY THAT I HAD MERCY ON YOU?'**

34 **"AND HIS LORD, MOVED WITH ANGER, HANDED HIM OVER TO THE TORTURERS UNTIL HE SHOULD REPAY ALL THAT WAS OWED HIM.**

35 **"MY HEAVENLY FATHER WILL ALSO DO THE SAME TO YOU, IF EACH OF YOU DOES NOT FORGIVE HIS BROTHER FROM YOUR HEART."**

**Matthew 6:9-15 NASB**

9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

11 'Give us this day our daily bread.

12 **'AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.**

13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.']

14 **"FOR IF YOU FORGIVE OTHERS FOR THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER WILL ALSO FORGIVE YOU.**

15 **"BUT IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE OTHERS, THEN YOUR FATHER WILL NOT FORGIVE YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS.**

**THE ROOT PROBLEM WITH UNFORGIVENESS IS NOT THE RECOGNITION THAT YOU'VE BEEN FORGIVEN, BUT THE DELUSION OF YOUR PERCEPTION THAT:**

1. **Others sins are worse than yours.**

**2 Samuel 12:1-13 NASB**

1 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said,"There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor.

2 "The rich man had a great many flocks and herds.

3 "But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb which he bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, and was like a daughter to him.

4 "Now a traveler came to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; rather he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

5 **THEN DAVID'S ANGER BURNED GREATLY AGAINST THE MAN, AND HE SAID TO NATHAN, "AS THE LORD LIVES, SURELY THE MAN WHO HAS DONE THIS DESERVES TO DIE.**

6 **"HE MUST MAKE RESTITUTION FOR THE LAMB FOURFOLD, BECAUSE HE DID THIS THING AND HAD NO COMPASSION."**

7 **NATHAN THEN SAID TO DAVID, "YOU ARE THE MAN! THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, 'IT IS I WHO ANOINTED YOU KING OVER ISRAEL AND IT IS I WHO DELIVERED YOU FROM THE HAND OF SAUL.**

8 **'I ALSO GAVE YOU YOUR MASTER'S HOUSE AND YOUR MASTER'S WIVES INTO YOUR CARE, AND I GAVE YOU THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH; AND IF THAT HAD BEEN TOO LITTLE, I WOULD HAVE ADDED TO YOU MANY MORE THINGS LIKE THESE!**

9 **'WHY HAVE YOU DESPISED THE WORD OF THE LORD BY DOING EVIL IN HIS SIGHT? YOU HAVE**

**STRUCK DOWN URIAH THE HITTITE WITH THE SWORD, HAVE TAKEN HIS WIFE TO BE YOUR WIFE, AND HAVE KILLED HIM WITH THE SWORD OF THE SONS OF AMMON.**

10 'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

11 "Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.

12 'Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.'"

13 Then David said to Nathan, "**I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD.**" And Nathan said to David, "**THE LORD ALSO HAS TAKEN AWAY YOUR SIN; YOU SHALL NOT DIE.**"

## 2. You are more deserving of forgiveness than others.

**Luke 18:10-14 NASB**

10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: '**GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I AM NOT LIKE OTHER PEOPLE: SWINDLERS, UNJUST, ADULTERERS, OR EVEN LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR.**

12 '**I FAST TWICE A WEEK; I PAY TITHES OF ALL THAT I GET.**'

13 "**BUT THE TAX COLLECTOR, STANDING SOME DISTANCE AWAY, WAS EVEN UNWILLING TO LIFT UP HIS EYES TO HEAVEN, BUT WAS BEATING HIS BREAST, SAYING, 'GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME, THE SINNER!'**

14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

## THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS TO SEE YOUR NEED OF FORGIVENESS CLEARLY:

### 1. See your sin in the light of His holiness.

**Isaiah 6:1-5 NASB**

1 In the year of King Uzziah's death **I SAW THE LORD SITTING ON A THRONE, LOFTY AND EXALTED, WITH THE TRAIN OF HIS ROBE FILLING THE TEMPLE.**

2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."

4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

5 Then I said, "**WOE IS ME, FOR I AM RUINED! BECAUSE I AM A MAN OF UNCLEAN LIPS, AND I LIVE AMONG A PEOPLE OF UNCLEAN LIPS; FOR MY EYES HAVE SEEN THE KING, THE LORD OF HOSTS.**"

### 2. See the cost of your forgiveness in the suffering and death of Jesus.

**Isaiah 53:4-6 NASB**

4 **SURELY OUR GRIEFS HE HIMSELF BORE, AND OUR SORROWS HE CARRIED**; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 **BUT HE WAS PIERCED THROUGH FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR INIQUITIES; THE CHASTENING FOR OUR WELL-BEING FELL UPON HIM, AND BY HIS SCOURGING WE ARE HEALED.**

6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; **BUT THE LORD HAS CAUSED THE INIQUITY OF US ALL TO FALL ON HIM.**

**THE MORE SORROWFUL AND BROKEN YOU ARE OVER YOUR OWN SIN, THE MORE COMPASSIONATE AND FORGIVING YOU WILL BE TOWARDS OTHERS.**

**John 8:3-9 NASB**

3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court,

4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 "Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?"

6 They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground.

7 But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "**HE WHO IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU, LET HIM BE THE FIRST TO THROW A STONE AT HER.**"

8 Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 **WHEN THEY HEARD IT, THEY BEGAN TO GO OUT ONE BY ONE, BEGINNING WITH THE OLDER ONES, AND HE WAS LEFT ALONE, AND THE WOMAN, WHERE SHE WAS, IN THE CENTER OF THE COURT.**