

## **The Difficulty of Forgiveness Matthew 18:15-35**

How do you forgive someone who repeatedly sins against you?

- I. The power to forgive
  - A. Forgiven much, but not forgiving (v. 23-35)
  - B. Forgiveness and debt
- II. The attitude to forgive
  - A. Unlimited forgiveness (v. 21-22)
  - B. Forgiveness versus trust
- III. The motivation to forgive
  - A. The goal of forgiveness (v. 15-20; Deut. 19:15; 1 Cor. 5:5)
  - B. The precondition for reconciliation

### **Application Guide:**

1. Towards whom are you harboring anger, bitterness, or resentment? Who are you finding difficult to forgive? How does the drastic difference in debt in this parable challenge your lack of forgiveness?
2. Do you struggle to accept that forgiveness recognizes no boundaries? Why? How does the difference between forgiveness and trust help you embrace the truth that forgiveness has no boundaries?
3. What relationship in your life is broken and in need of reconciliation? How have your attempts at reconciliation made things worse because you haven't forgiven that person?