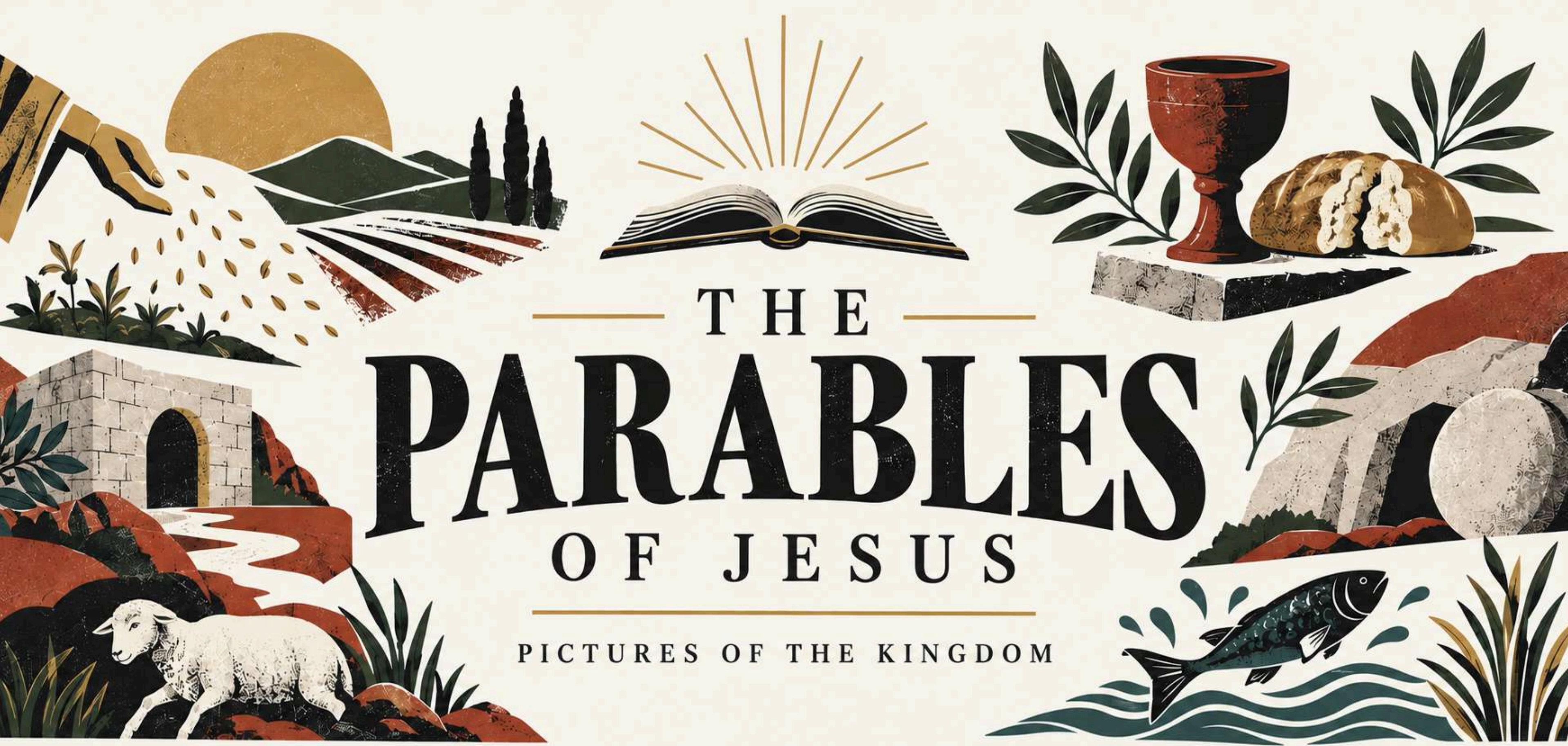




THE

PARABLES

OF JESUS

PICTURES OF THE KINGDOM

THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD
MORTGAGE DEBT IN 2026 IS

\$264,162

EXPERIAN • 2026



10,000 TALENTS

EQUALS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TODAY





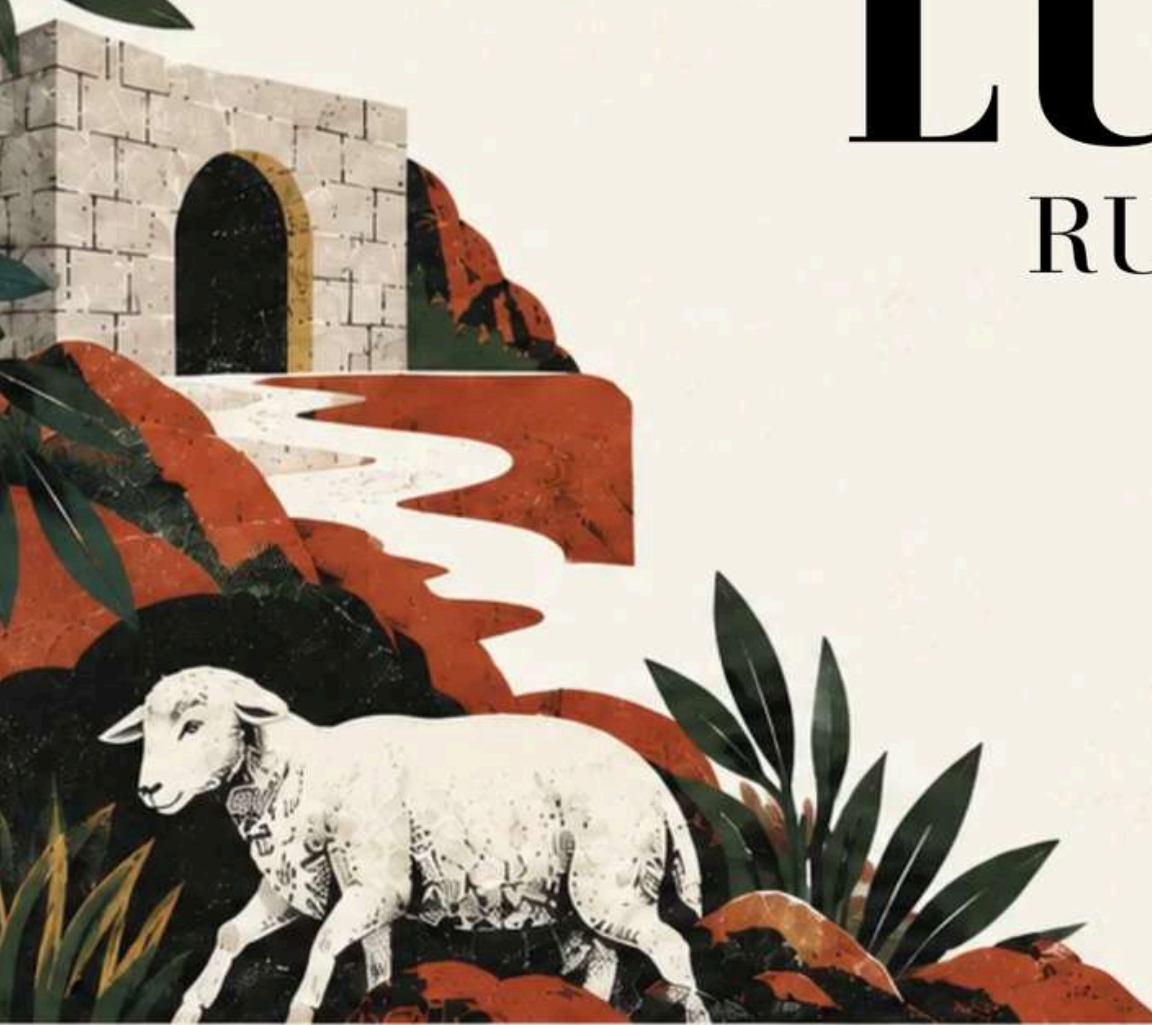
The Greek literally describes the first servant as owing ten thousand talents. The **talent** was the highest denomination of currency in the ancient Greco-Roman world. The Greek word translated “**ten thousand**” was the highest named numeral, the word from which we derive our English “myriad.” Jesus’ parable was just realistic enough to be barely conceivable, but it stretched the boundaries of his audience’s imagination.

CRAIG BLOMBERG

***parable* //** a story from everyday life used to illustrate a moral truth. It is the primary method Jesus used to teach about the kingdom of God.

WILLIAM D. MOUNCE

COMPLETE EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF OLD & NEW TESTAMENT WORDS



LUKE 18:15-20

RULES FOR CHURCH DISCIPLINE



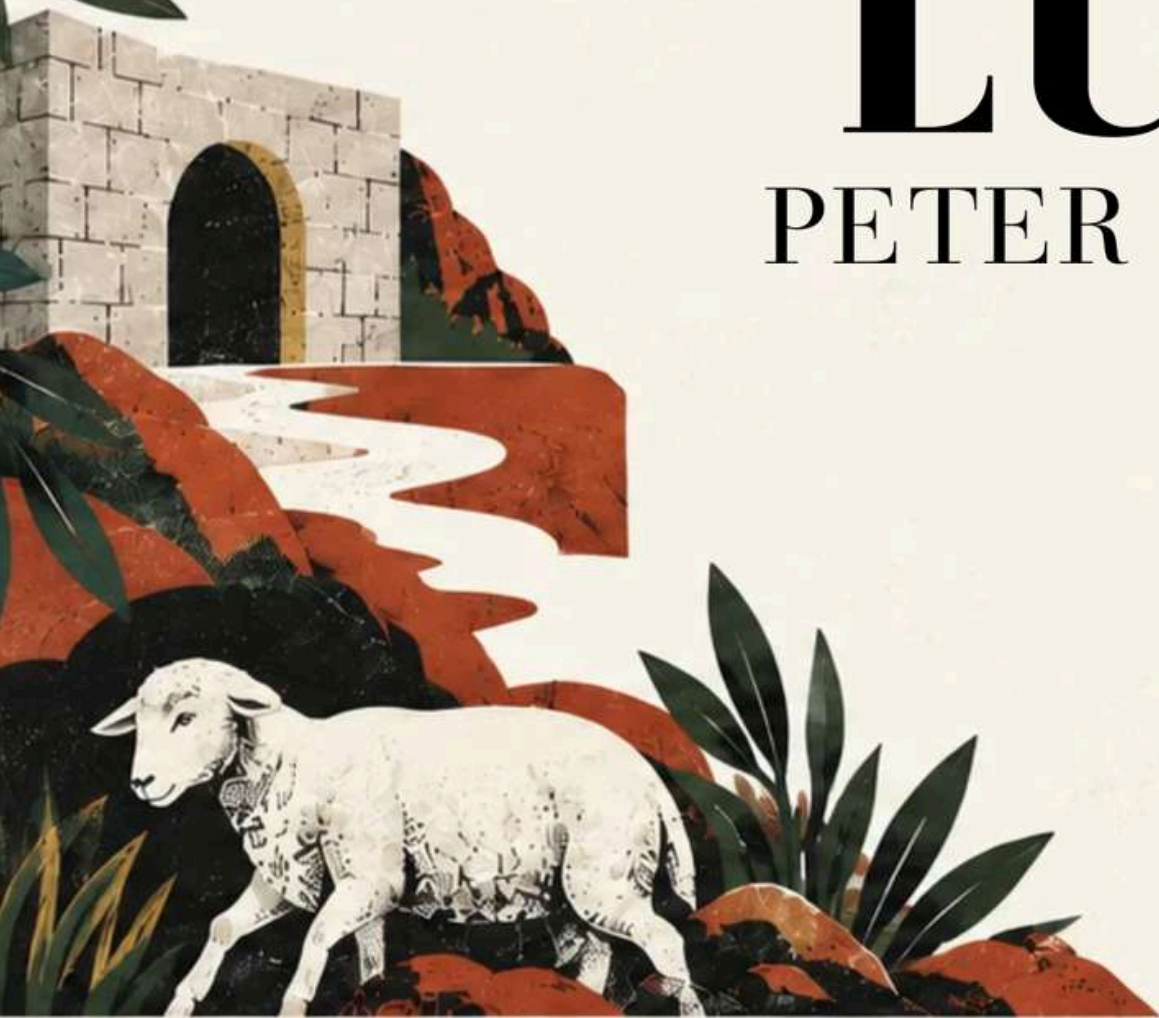
¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him **alone**. If he listens to you, **you have gained your brother**. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, **take one or two others along with you**, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 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**. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, **if two of you agree** on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where **two or three are gathered in my name**, there am I among them.”

MATTHEW 18:15-20



LUKE 18:21-22

PETER SHOWS OFF, JESUS CORRECTS HIM



²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as **seven times?**” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but **seventy-seven times.**”

MATTHEW 18:21-22



LUKE 18:23-27

THE KING'S GENEROUS GRACE



²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

MATTHEW 18:23-27

The first episode shows us the **boundless grace** of God in forgiving our sins, pictured in the king who freely forgave his servant's enormous debt.

INTERPRETATION OF EPISODE 1



LUKE 18:28-31

WASTING THE KING'S GRACE

²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

MATTHEW 18:28-31

100
DENARII

≈
100
DAYS' WAGES

10,000
TALENTS

≈
60,000,000
DAYS' WAGES

²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

MATTHEW 18:28-31

In the second episode, the forgiven servant shows us what it looks like to **receive grace but refuse to extend it to others.**

This is what it looks like to throw away grace given to you.

INTERPRETATION OF EPISODE 2



LUKE 18:32-35

THE KING'S WRATH ON THE UNFORGIVING

³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.
³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

MATTHEW 18:32-35

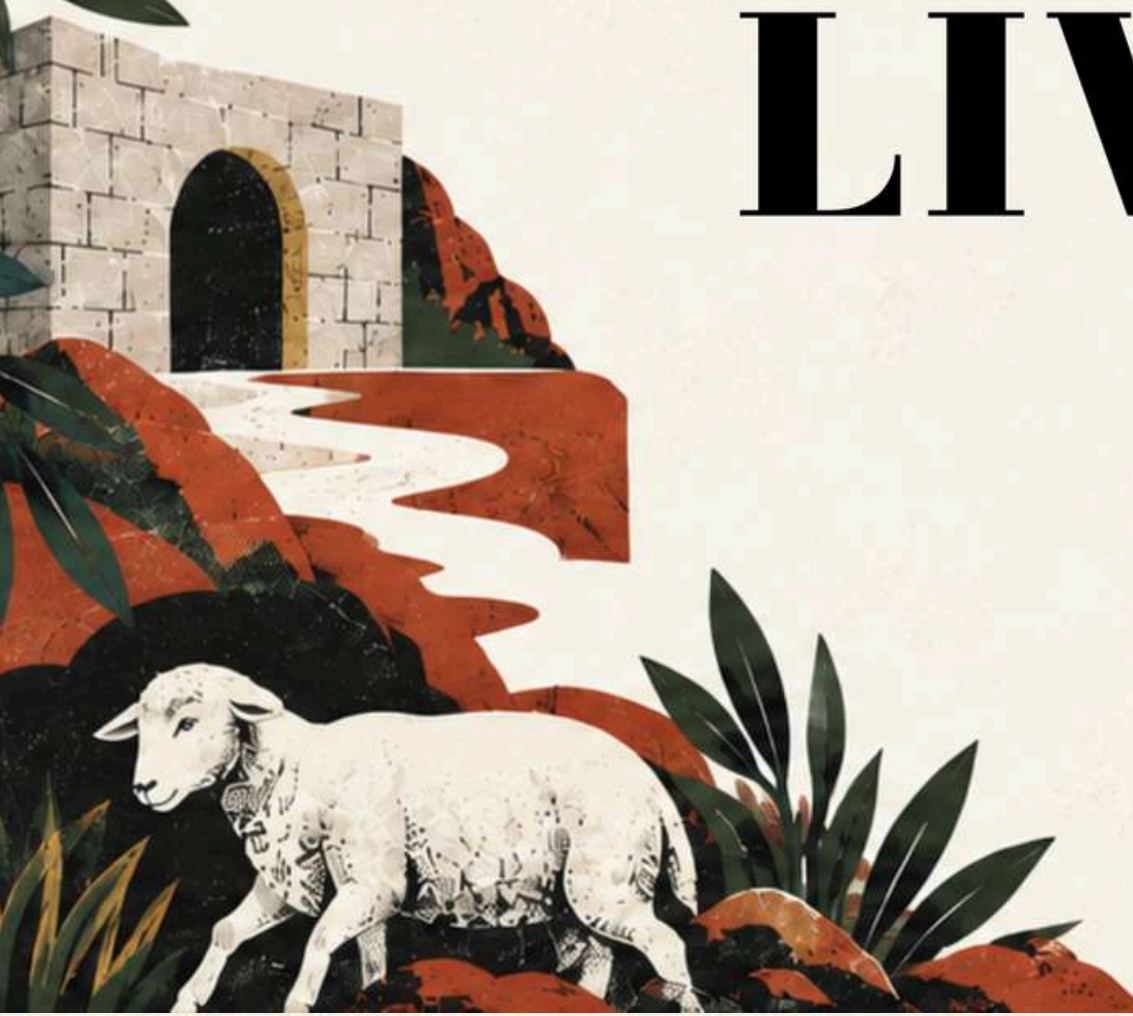


Jesus sees no incongruity in the actions of a heavenly Father who forgives so bountifully and punishes so ruthlessly, and neither should we. Indeed, it is precisely because he is a God of such compassion and mercy that he cannot possibly accept as his those devoid of such compassion and mercy.

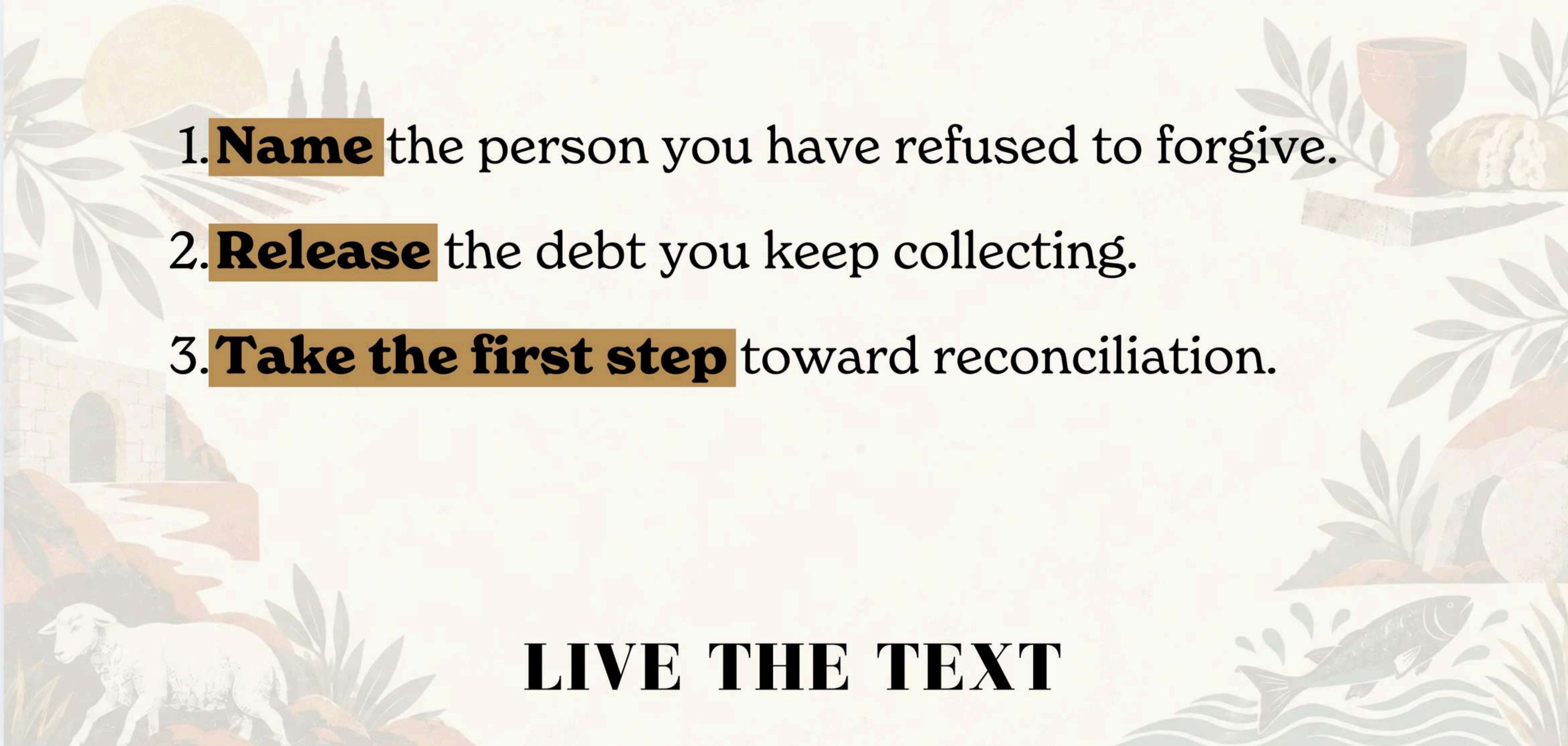
D.A. CARSON

The final episode shows us the **terrible fate** that awaits those who refuse to forgive, as the wicked servant discovered to his ruin.

INTERPRETATION OF EPISODE 3



LIVE THE TEXT

- 
1. **Name** the person you have refused to forgive.
2. **Release** the debt you keep collecting.
3. **Take the first step** toward reconciliation.

LIVE THE TEXT