

## **Living Jesus Way - Forgiveness**

### Parable of the unforgiving Servant

#### **Preamble - Jesus First People**

- Followers of Christ are a - Jesus People
  - They are called to build their lives on the - Foundation of Christ
  - His person - Knowing and growing in relationship with Him
  - His work - Our lives shaped and directed by what Christ has done
  - His teaching - Giving ourselves to obey the teaching of Christ
  - His mission - Becoming our mission in life
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- In an ever anxious world
  - An aggressive culture
  - Tensions high
  - Many opinions - opinionated people
  - The way of Christ for Jesus people is counter culture
  - The way of Christ is also the need for our world

The world is unprincipled. It's dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn't fight fair. But we don't live or fight our battles that way— never have and never will. **2 Corinthians 10.3 MSG**

Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. **Romans 12:2 NLT**

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. [14] “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:13-16**

#### **How then should we live?**

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” [22] Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. [23] “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. [24] As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. [25] Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. [26] “At this the servant fell on his

knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' [27] The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. [28] "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. [29] "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' [30] "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. [31] When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. [32] "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. [33] Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' [34] In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. [35] "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." **Matthew 18:21-35**

This is a story to show what the Kingdom is like - what Kingdom people are like and it's in response to Peter's question, how many times should I forgive?

- The King is God the Father
- The servant represents us
- Fellow servant represents those who are indebted to us

### **1. We serve a merciful Father**

The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

**Matthew 18:27**

Mercy: Compassion or forgiveness shown to someone to whom it is within one's power to punish or harm

The debt the first servant owed was in the millions, far beyond his ability to ever repay

- Maybe he had mishandled his master's money
- Jesus is using an astronomically high amount
- He would never be able to repay

The servant's debt was totally cancelled! - And so is yours if you follow Christ

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:9**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **1 John 3:1**

We must live in the reality of this great compassion, mercy and kindness shown to us

## **2. We will give an account**

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. **Matthew 18:23**

The Lord sees all and we will give an account for good and bad

From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; [14] from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth--- [15] he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. **Psalm 33:13-15**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. **2 Corinthians 5:10**

- Good or bad, each will receive a what is due

Live with eternity in view, it changes everything

## **3. We must be merciful**

‘Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’  
**Matthew 18:33**

The Golden Rule: Treat others as you would want to be treated

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. **Matthew 5:7**

- Remember the parable was told as a way of answering Peters question:
- How many times should I forgive my brother, seven times?
- Not seven but seventy times seven - In other words again, and again.

How should we now live?

How should we respond to those who offend us?

What should our attitude be to those who owe us?

Merciful, kind, compassionate and forgiving

Mercy: Compassion or forgiveness shown to someone to whom its within ones power to punish or harm

Thats Jesus People, living the Jesus way