

Sermon Notes

Big Idea: Many times when Jesus spoke He told stories. Stories of how to live, how to love, and how to honor God. Let's unpack these simple stories together to discover how to maximize our lives in God's Kingdom.

Parable: A simple story to illustrate how life in God's Kingdom works.

Matthew 18:21-35 [NIV]

Ethics of Christian Relationships:

- HUMILITY toward Fellow Christians (vs 1-6)
- PURITY Toward Fellow Christians (vs 7-11)
- PURSUIT of wayward Fellow Christians (vs 12-14)
- CORRECTION of Fellow Christians (vs 15-20)
- MERCY toward Fellow Christians (vs 21-35)

MERCY received should lead to MERCY given

Three points to ponder from this parable:

1. God's grace and forgiveness should MOTIVATE our own.
2. FORGETTING will hinder your forgiving.
3. God cannot overlook UNFORGIVENESS.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) Share about a time when you were hurt by someone and extended forgiveness to that person. Think back on what it felt like to offer forgiveness. Did forgiving cause you to feel better about the situation or do you wish you had not offered forgiveness?
- 3) Read Matthew 18:21-22. Rabbinical law said that you are to forgive a person three times when they have wronged you, so Peter looked very generous. What do you think about Jesus telling us to forgive a person so many times?
- 4) Forgiveness isn't making excuses. It doesn't mean forgetting. It doesn't require reconciliation and continued relationship. To illustrate extravagant forgiveness, Jesus told a story. Read Matthew 18:23-27. What do you think it would have felt like to have that large of a debt forgiven? Share about a time someone extended wild forgiveness to you.
- 5) Immediately after being forgiven such a large debt, the servant acted wickedly. Read Matthew 18:28-31. Why do you think this servant acted in such a wicked manner after being forgiven? Read Luke 7:47 and talk about the response of forgiveness.
- 6) The next move in the story brings it back to the two original characters. Read Matthew 18:32-35. How has God shown us great mercy, and how have we have failed to show that same mercy to others? Have you ever felt like getting revenge would make you feel better? If so, how did it make you feel? Or what was the result?
- 7) Read Matthew 5:38-48. Is there someone God is prompting you to forgive? How will you change based on the truth found in this passage?