

The unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

Introduction:

1. Series Intro:

- **Parables: A earthly story with a Heavenly meaning. Each story contains Biblical truth.** Jesus taught using over 40 parables. He was a master at taking material things in this world to teach us about God and about the kingdom of God. In other words, these parables give us a glimpse into the kingdom of God. Jesus came to save people from their sins and create a new way of living.
- His parables are stories to teach us about God and how Christ followers are supposed to live here on this earth.

2. **Illus:** How many of you have ever been offended?

Story of me forgiving my former pastor.

3. Somewhere along the way, we feel that forgiveness is only doing them a favor, but forgiveness is as much for you as it is the person who wronged you.

4. **Matthew 18:21-35** Commentary

5. **The forgiveness that we have experienced by God is the basis by which we are to forgive others.**

6. Let's look at a few thoughts on forgiveness from today's text:

I. The scope of Christ-like forgiveness

- **Jesus' forgiveness is limitless** – We struggle keeping score in our relationships, don't we? Have you ever been in an argument about something, and then you or the other person begin bringing up

other issues? You started out arguing about the laundry, and next thing you are arguing about is your families, how you were raised, the kids, and that you don't care. Jesus' point is that the forgiveness of Jesus is limitless so our forgiveness to others should be limitless.

- **Jesus' forgiveness should be the attitude of Christ followers** – Jesus came to save us and teach us a new way of living. A new way of interacting with people in this world. In other words, the kingdom of Heaven should be lived out in the way that we live here on this earth. Forgiveness should be the go to attitude of Christ followers, because forgiveness is the attitude of Jesus.

II. The need for Christ-like forgiveness

1. A life lived without the presence of forgiveness opens up the door to broken relationships.
2. This is a challenge, but also a warning to what could happen to your life if you withhold forgiveness.
 - **Withhold forgiveness makes us behave the wrong way** – The man choked the guy. He overreacted. **Sibling rivalry** in the house – They overreact.
 - **Withholding forgiveness confines us to the prison of bitterness** – V. 34. Unforgiveness hurts you more than the other person.
 - **Withholding forgiveness reveals the condition of your heart** (V. 35) - The Gospel

is an inside out transformation. As your heart changes so changes your behavior.

- III. **The power for Christ-like forgiveness** - V. 35
1. Let me just say this, the only way you can extend forgiveness to others is for you to first meet forgiveness through the person of Jesus.
 2. In other words, "forgiven people forgive people."
 3. The cross shows us the attitude of forgiveness - **compassion**/pity
 4. This is the heart of God.
 5. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Your sin separated yourself from the Father. Your wrongdoing separated us from the Father. How did Jesus respond? He gave His Son to die for your sin so that you can be forever forgiven.
 6. When you understand the forgiveness of God, the only response is to forgive others. You say, Pastor Josh, you don't know the hurt that I have received. I don't, and I am sorry you have experienced what you have but let me challenge you with this: If the heart of God has been extended to you through forgiveness, how much more should we show others the same.

Conclusion:

1. **Have you experienced the forgiveness of God in your life through salvation?**

2. **Spiritual growth happens when we are willing to address the wrongs that we have done or that others have done to us.**
3. **Forgiveness does not require that you rehash the wrong.** Just forgive. Hand it over to God and don't bring it up again. Being right with each other is more important than being right at one another.
4. Pray and let the Spirit lead