

Parables part 2. "Parable of the Unforgiving Servant"

Matthew 18:21-35

Culture of Hate

James 4:1

Inability to forgive

"Chronic anger puts you in a fight-or-flight mode, which results in numerous negative effects on the heart rate, blood pressure and immune response, which increases the rates of depression and anxiety, heart disease, diabetes, cancer etc... Forgiveness, however, calms stress levels, leading to improved health and well-being." John Hopkins article

"Forgiveness: Your health depends on it!" John Hopkins

"Forgiveness is a beautiful word, until you have something to forgive." C.S. Lewis

Matthew 18:21

Matthew 18:22

Jesus taught with parables to paint a picture worth a thousand words. He wanted everyone to get it, so he told these unforgettable, colorful, compelling, culturally relevant stories.

Scene One: The incredible grace of the King!

Mathew 18:23-27

Scene Two: The duplicity of the servant!

Matthew 18: 27-30

Scene 3: The Kings response to the servant's duplicity!

Matthew 18:30-34

It is impossible to receive forgiveness gracefully and gratefully from one and refuse it to another. When we choose to receive forgiveness, we obligate ourselves to forgiveness.

The King's anger is aroused by the servant's actions, the refusal to forgive is costly...

Observations about the Parable:

1) *The way of the Kingdom of God is Grace and forgiveness*

Ephesians 2:8-9

Romans 3:23-24 NLT and the Message version

Ephesians 4:32

2) *The refusal to forgive is costly*

3) *The key to unlock the ability to forgive is God's grace*

A couple of thoughts around forgiveness:

- Forgiveness deals with real sin.

“Forgiveness means pardoning the unpardonable or it is not forgiveness at all.” GK Chesterton

“Aphiemi” to send away, to let go

- Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation.
- Reconciliation is the rebuilding of a trusting relationship and takes time.
- Forgiveness is the prerequisite to reconciliation.
- Forgiveness is within my ability and power, enabled by the Spirit, reconciliation is not...

Issue around unrepentant abuse

Forgiveness is granted, not earned.

Luke 23:34

Prayer of Examen

- Give thanks
- Ask God for insight the day
- Examine the day
- Seek forgiveness
- Steps to change