

FIREPROOF Bible Study

Matthew 18:18-35 "The Unmerciful Servant"

Introduction: We begin our series on parables in the book of Matthew with the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, which teaches us about forgiveness and mercy.

Turn or click to Matthew 18:18-35

Read Matthew 18:18-35

Peter asks how many times he should forgive his brother. Jesus answers seventy-seven times or seventy times seven times. This is a play with words. We are to forgive others their offenses as often as there is the occasion. This question calls the parable to Christ's mind.

The servant owed the master ten thousand talents, which is equal to millions of dollars. This is the same as our many offenses toward God. The master then ordered that he and his family be sold to pay the debt. The servant begs for the master's patience and offers to pay the master back. Upon seeing his willingness to pay and the hopelessness of paying the massive debt back, the master cancels it. Likewise, upon our true feelings of repentance and asking for forgiveness, God cancels our sin through the power of Christ.

After this, the servant finds a fellow servant who owes him a hundred denarii, which is only equal to a few dollars. He refuses the fellow servant's plea for a chance to pay him back, and has him thrown into prison. The other servants saw this and told their master. The master then has him thrown into jail for being wicked and not showing mercy.

Jesus says that this is how will be treated if we do not forgive our brothers from our heart. Therefore, we must remember to forgive others and show mercy to them, just as God has done for us. This can be very difficult, but we are called to do it and commanded to do it.

God Bless,
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