



THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE

*Week 5: Kingdom Forgiveness / Teacher: Hunter Emmert
Sermon Questions for 3.22.2026*

OPENER

Many times, when we read the parables of Jesus, we treat them like “how-to videos” simple instructions for how to live a better life. However, Jesus’ parables were meant to do something deeper. They reveal the **ethics and values of God’s Kingdom** and invite us to live within a completely new reality under the rule of King Jesus.

In Matthew 18, Jesus tells a story about a servant who receives extraordinary forgiveness but refuses to extend forgiveness to someone else. Through this parable, Jesus reveals a defining ethic of His Kingdom: **people who have been forgiven by God are called to become people who forgive others.**

READ

Matthew 18:21-35

MAIN POINTS

1. The Kingdom of God Does Not Place Limits on Forgiveness

When Peter asks how many times he must forgive someone, he suggests seven times. This is already generous by cultural standards, but Jesus responds, “seventy times seven,” meaning forgiveness should not be counted or limited.

In God’s Kingdom, relationships are sustained not by keeping score but by cultivating a culture of forgiveness.

2. The Kingdom of God Is Ruled by a Compassionate King

In the parable, a servant owes the king an impossibly large debt. A debt he could never repay. Yet when the servant begs for mercy, the king responds with compassion and completely forgives the debt.

This reflects the heart of God. Every believer stands before God with a debt of sin we could never repay, yet through Jesus, the King extends radical mercy and forgiveness.

3. The King Grieves When His Citizens Refuse to Show Mercy

After being forgiven an enormous debt, the servant refuses to forgive a much smaller debt owed to him. His hypocrisy reveals a heart that has not truly grasped the mercy he received. The King is angered because mercy should produce mercy. When those who have been forgiven refuse to forgive others, it contradicts the very ethic of the Kingdom.

4. The Kingdom Is Filled with Forgiven People Who Forgive

Through Jesus' sacrifice, our unpayable debt has been forgiven. Because we have received such extraordinary grace, forgiveness becomes part of our identity.

In the Kingdom of God, forgiven people become forgiving people, extending to others the same mercy they have received from Christ.

ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- What part of this sermon or parable stood out to you most, and why?
- Peter thought forgiving someone seven times was generous. Why do you think Jesus calls His followers to forgive without keeping count?
- The parable contrasts an enormous debt with a very small one. How does this comparison help us understand our own forgiveness from God?
- The sermon explains the difference between **forgiveness and reconciliation**. Why is that distinction important?
- Why do you think forgiveness can feel so difficult, especially when the other person has not apologized or acknowledged their wrongdoing?
- How can remembering the forgiveness we've received from God change the way we treat people who have hurt us? Would anyone like to share a moment they were forgiven by another person and it had a profound impact on you? Would anyone like to share a time they were able to forgive someone they thought they would never be able to forgive?
- Is there a relationship or situation in your life where God may be inviting you to take a step toward forgiveness?

BOTTOM LINE

Forgiven people become forgiving people.