

“Parables of Jesus: The Unmerciful Servant”**Text: Matthew 18:21-35**

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, when my fellow believer sins against me, how many times must I forgive him? Should I forgive him as many as seven times?” **22** Jesus answered, “I tell you, you must forgive him more than seven times. You must forgive him even if he wrongs you seventy times seven.

23 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who decided to collect the money his servants owed him. **24** When the king began to collect his money, a servant who owed him several million dollars was brought to him. **25** But the servant did not have enough money to pay his master, the king. So the master ordered that everything the servant owned should be sold, even the servant’s wife and children. Then the money would be used to pay the king what the servant owed.

26 “But the servant fell on his knees and begged, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything I owe.’ **27** The master felt sorry for his servant and told him he did not have to pay it back. Then he let the servant go free. **28** “Later, that same servant found another servant who owed him a few dollars. The servant grabbed him around the neck and said, ‘Pay me the money you owe me!’

29 “The other servant fell on his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything I owe.’ **30** “But the first servant refused to be patient. He threw the other servant into prison until he could pay everything he owed. **31** When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very sorry. So they went and told their master all that had happened.

32 “Then the master called his servant in and said, ‘You evil servant! Because you begged me to forget what you owed, I told you that you did not have to pay anything. **33** You should have showed mercy to that other servant, just as I showed mercy to you.’ **34** The master was very angry and put the servant in prison to be punished until he could pay everything he owed. **35** “This king did what my heavenly Father will do to you if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

1. What guidance for holy living can be conclude from Jesus’ parable?
Forgiveness must be _____.
2. The lesson is clear: we must _____ if we wish to be forgiven by God.

3. There is no room in the Christian life for _____, retaliation, getting even or holding a grudge.
4. If somebody hurts us, either deliberately or unintentionally, and we do not forgive them, then the potential is for us to develop _____, which hardens the heart.
5. Bitterness in the _____ makes us treat others the way Satan treats them, when we should treat others the way God has treated us.
6. God Himself is _____ kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving, and we show those virtues by _____ their Source. We do not forgive for our sake or even for their sake, but for Jesus' sake.
7. Learning _____ to forgive is one of the secrets of a happy Christian life.
8. Quotes about forgiveness:
 - There is no revenge so complete as forgiveness.
 - We are most like beasts when we kill. We are most like men when we judge. We are most like God when we forgive.
 - Every man should have a fair-sized cemetery in which to bury the faults of his friends.
 - The Christian can always afford to forgive—and can never afford not to!
 - Nothing causes us to so nearly resemble God as the forgiveness of injuries.
 - Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a permanent attitude.
 - Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea until he/she has something to forgive.
 - Those who say they will forgive but can't forget, simply bury the hatchet but leave the handle out for immediate use.
 - A Christian will find it cheaper to pardon than to resent. Forgiveness saves us the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, the waste of spirits.
 - Forgiveness is a funny thing—it warms the heart and cools the sting.
9. Forgiveness, of course, is the virtue we most enjoy and least employ, in our _____ experience.
10. The value of this parable lies in seeing that it is a _____ of us. Jesus is here holding up a mirror in order that we might see ourselves.
11. Our rebellions, our _____ acts and thoughts, our willful choices, our lovelessness toward one another, and the hurt we have caused others, our pride, our anger, our lusts, our bitterness, our hates, and our lies; all these add up through the years to a staggering debt we owe God and which we cannot pay.
12. According to Jesus, what we do what we _____ to forgive each other is the most insulting and injurious offenses.
13. Not a day goes by that we do not stand in desperate need of the forgiving _____ of our great God.

14. There are two reasons revealed here why Christians must forgive each other:

A. We must _____ because anything less is hypocritical. We cannot demand _____ from others because we do not stand on that ground ourselves.

B. The second reason we must forgive is because of the torment which an _____ spirit inflicts upon us.

As James tell us, **“So you must show mercy to others, or God will not show mercy to you when he judges you. But the person who shows mercy can stand without fear at the judgment.”** (James 2:13)

15. If we choose to practice _____, the result will be that we are “delivered to the torturers.”

16. Quote by Andy Stanley: **“In the shadow of my hurt, forgiveness feels like a decision to reward my enemy. But in the shadow of the cross, forgiveness is merely a gift from one underserving soul to another.”**