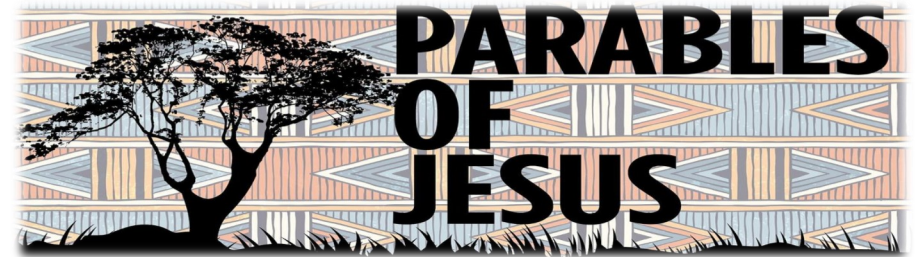


**Reflection Questions:** Whom have I been holding a bitter grudge against? Whom do I need forgive today? Why do I find forgiveness so hard to give?

How can we pray for one another this week?



Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Part 1  
Matthew 18:21-35

*Sermon*  
*Notes*

May 31, 2020

### Quotes to Ponder

*Forgiven people forgive others.*

Craig Blomberg

*The biggest example of God's justice and mercy is His sending Christ to die for us on the cross. God's justice is maintained, and in a way that we can receive His mercy.*

*We treat people not just as we would like to be treated but how we have been treated by God, and even then, whatever we can do is only a small shadow compared with what God has done for us.*

M. Lee-Barnwell

*Forgiveness is a beautiful word, until you have something to forgive.*

C.S. Lewis

*Forgiveness means pardoning the unpardonable or it is not forgiveness at all.*

G.K. Chesterton

*The torture chamber of an unforgiving spirit is all too real and, ironically, has as its chief victim the person so sure of his moral and legal rectitude.*

Gary Inrig

*I do not forgive men in order to be forgiven  
but because I have been forgiven.*

R.C. McQuilkin

*It is a melancholy fact that there are few Christian duties so little practiced as that of forgiveness. It is sad to see how much bitterness, unmercifulness, spite, hardness, and unkindness there is among men. Yet there are few duties so strongly enforced in the ... Scriptures as this duty.*

J.C. Ryle

*No man can possibly offend me to the extent that  
my sins have offended God.*

David Guzik

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?
2. Why did Jesus tell this parable (*Matthew 18:1-21*)? To whom did He tell it? What was the setting? Context?
3. What was Peter's question and Jesus' answer (*Matthew 18:20-21*)?
4. How many times must we forgive others?
5. At first glance, who do we relate to in this parable (*Matthew 18:22-35*)? Which character are we actually more like?
6. What does the king do for his servant and why (*Matthew 18:27*)?  
  
Does the servant earn or deserve this? Explain
7. What does *Matthew 18:23-35* indicate about how we should respond to this forgiveness?  
  
What should characterize our relationships with other people? Why?
8. What would unlimited forgiveness look like in our relationships with family, friends, co-workers, and others?
9. What happens if we don't forgive (*Matthew 18:35*)? What does this mean?
10. "When I choose to receive forgiveness, I obligate myself to practice forgiveness." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
11. Does God's mercy invalidate His justice? Explain.
12. Does God forgive us out of compassion, because He cares deeply for us? Explain.
13. What do the following verses teach about forgiveness?  
*Matthew 5:7* — *2 Corinthians 2:7-10* —  
  
*Matthew 6:12-15* — *Ephesians 4:32* —  
  
*Luke 6:37* — *Colossians 3:13* —  
  
*Luke 17:3-4* — *1 Peter 4:8* —  
  
*1 Corinthians 13:5* —
14. Is repentance necessary before we can forgive?
15. What questions does this parable raise in your mind?