

THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM: PART 3

Matthew 18:21-35

- I. Prayer
- II. Forgiveness and the story so far
 - A. Matthew 5:44, 46
 - B. Matthew 18
- III. How often shall I forgive my brother or sister?
 - A. Peter asks a question
 - B. Jesus gives an answer
- IV. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
 - A. Basic structure
 - 1. The master’s compassion for the hopelessly indebted slave (24-27)
 - 2. The forgiven slave’s refusal to show mercy to his fellow slave who had far less debt (28-30)
 - 3. The master’s angry retraction of his forgiveness and the subsequent punishment of the unforgiving slave (31-34).
 - B. Parallels and Contrasts

Scene 1	Scene 2
One indebted to another	One indebted to another
Initially merciless treatment	Initially merciless treatment
Master orders first slave, along with family, sold to repay a portion of the debt	First slave finds his fellow slave and begins to choke him and demand payment
Falls to his knees – “Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything!”	Falls to his knees, “Be patient with me, and I will pay it back!”

Contrasts:	Contrast:
Master and Slave	Slave and Slave
10,000 bags of Gold (Talents)	100 Denarii
Master has compassion, unilaterally releases him, and forgives him the entire catastrophically large debt.	The pardoned slave kept on not being willing to be patient / forgive. Imprisons his fellow slave, demands payment.

- C. Scene 3
 - 1. The master speaks
 - 2. Jesus’ concluding words and their effect
 - a. I _____ forgive
 - b. I _____ forgive
 - c. How is it _____ that I forgive?

- V. The Framework(s) of the Parable
 - A. One
 - B. Two
- VI. Prayer