

“Forgiveness” - Matthew 18:21-35

Ask - How hard is it for you to forgive others? Discuss.

Background - After His transfiguration, Jesus continued teaching the disciples various lessons and truths. He performed a few more miracles. In today’s lesson, He speaks on the topic of forgiveness.

“Question of Forgiveness” - Matthew 18:21-22

(v21) Who asked Jesus a question in this verse? What was the question? What was his proposed answer?

(v22) How did Jesus answer Peter? How was Jesus’ answer different from what Peter had proposed?

PETER ASKED JESUS HOW MANY TIMES HE SHOULD FORGIVE SOMEONE. JESUS ANSWERED SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN.

“Compassionate King” - Matthew 18:23-27

(v23) To what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven in this verse?

(v24-25) In this parable, who was brought before the king? How much did he owe? Could he afford to repay the debt? What did the king do?

(v26-27) What did the indebted servant do in response? What did he ask for? What did the king do and why?

THERE WAS A PARTICULAR SERVANT WHO OWED A GREAT DEBT TO THE KING AND COULDN’T REPAY IT. THE KING SHOWED MERCY TO HIM AND FORGAVE THE DEBT.

“Unforgiving Servant” - Matthew 18:28-35

(v28-29) After being forgiven, who did this servant go and find? How did he treat his fellow servant? What did his fellow servant say?

(v30-31) What did the unforgiving servant do to his fellow servant? Who saw this happen, how did they feel about it, and who did they go tell? How do you feel about it personally?

(v32-33) Who summoned the unforgiving servant? What did he ask him? What example does he refer to?

(v34-35) What does the king do with the unforgiving servant? What point does Jesus make at the end of this parable? Read Matthew 6:14-15.

BECAUSE THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT WOULD NOT FORGIVE HIS FELLOW SERVANT A MUCH SMALLER DEBT, THE KING REVERSED HIS ORIGINAL POSITION AND TOOK PUNITIVE ACTION.

Application - Those who trust in Jesus Christ will be forgiven of their sins. This is a great debt for which we should be thankful. In return, we should be forgiving toward others. Those who are not forgiving towards others will not be forgiven by God. Unforgiveness is a sign that someone isn't saved, even if they profess to be. And to be clear, we aren't to forgive someone 490 times (70x7), but rather endlessly. That doesn't mean we shouldn't use discretion (we should), but we shouldn't harbor unforgiveness. How does an unwillingness to forgive affect a person? Discuss.