

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

²³"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents^[g] was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii.^[h] He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

³⁰"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³²"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Matthew 18:23-35, New International Version

FORGIVENESS

The reality of _____ makes forgiveness _____.

Biblical Observations:

The servant owed what he _____ pay.

The servant had his debt _____.

The servant had no _____ for the one who owed him.

His fellow servants were _____.

The master sentenced the servant to _____.

God requires us to forgive from _____.

Application:

1. Non-Christ follower
 - A. Accept _____ through _____.
Move closer toward God, and experience His forgiveness.
2. Christ follower
 - A. _____ forgiveness!
Don't be like the unforgiving servant.
3. Everyone
 - A. _____ it _____!
Unforgiveness leads to bitterness.

On your Own:

Some other passages dealing with forgiveness to study and reflect upon:

Matthew 26:28

Ephesians 1:7

Genesis 50:17

Matthew 6:12

Luke 23:34

Read the entire story and note how forgiveness is present in the story. These verses are specific to forgiveness, please look at the passage in the entirety to gain a more complete picture.