



DESIRE WISDOM

because nothing else matters more

PART 8 • THE PARABLE OF THE FORGIVEN SERVANT • MATTHEW 18:21-35

In this week's parable Jesus responds to Peter's question about forgiveness. Thinking he's being generous by answering his question with, "7 times?" he quickly learns that Jesus sees things very differently. The root of unforgiveness lies at the heart and in this parable Jesus takes us there.

MESSAGE RESPONSE

Let's change things up a bit this week. Try reading the passage in your group and start with a few of these questions (not necessarily all) before considering the Going Deeper Questions.

1. What stood out as new or fresh this time through?
2. What questions did these verses raise?
3. What helped you know or love Jesus more?
4. What ideas for application do you find?
5. What truth could you share with someone else?
6. Why did God write these specific verses into his book?

GOING DEEPER

- 1) Peter's opening question (vs. 18:21-22) seems reasonable enough, "Isn't there a limit to how many times I/we should forgive someone who repeatedly sins against me?" What would you have thought of this statement before hearing this message and how has your understanding changed?
- 2) This parable compares the massive and unpayable debt of the one servant with the relatively paltry debt of his fellow servant. What do you learn about the forgiveness that God has shown us in Christ and our attitude toward forgiving one another our debts?
- 3) Both the servant and that servant's fellow servant ask of their debtor the same thing—patience. In what areas of life are you most impatient with others (specifically spouses, children, friends, church family, etc.). What is the root of your impatience? What might help you be more patient?
- 4) When the King came to settle accounts with his servant he first had pity (compassion) on him, then he released him from his debt and finally, he forgave him his debt. What is the difference between releasing someone and forgiving them?
- 5) The heart of God that produces such compassion, patience and forgiveness is love. Read 1 Cor. 13:4-7 together and discuss the ways that love produces hearts that will always want to forgive!
- 6) Take time to share, those who are willing, how the Spirit convicted you to forgive someone. Pray!

Key Scripture references from this week's message

Matthew 18:21-35, Hebrews 12:15, 1 Cor. 13:4-7, 1 Thess. 5:14, 2 Peter 3:9