

THE GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD: THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Great Stories about Unconditional Forgiveness

Sunday, October 24 | Tommy Duke

First Baptist Church of Garden City

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant – Matthew 18:23-35 (NLT)

(Jesus) “²³Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold - along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned – to pay the debt. ²⁶But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ ²⁷Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

²⁸But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. ²⁹His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. ³⁰But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. ³¹When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened.

³²Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. ³⁵That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

The Actors:

The Action:

vs.

HOW TO FORGIVE UNCONDITIONALLY

1. R _____ GOD’S UNCONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS TO ME.

“Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. 24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.” – Matthew 18:23-24 (NLT)

“Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the Lord, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.’” – Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)

2. R_____ MY DESIRE FOR REVENGE.

“But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.” – Matthew 18:28 (NLT)

“Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men ... Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.” – Romans 12:17, 19 (NKJV)

3. R_____ UNCONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS.

“Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?” – Matthew 18:33 (NLT)

The Challenge:

God’s Way of _____ Forgiveness

“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” – Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

4. R_____ THE PROCESS.

“Then Peter came to him and asked, ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’ ‘No, not seven times,’ Jesus replied, ‘but seventy times seven!’” – Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT)

Memory Verse:

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.” – Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO:

- Memorize Matthew 6:14-15.
- Forgive this person who has hurt me: _____.
- Share God’s love with families in our community by helping with Trunk or Treat on October 31.
I will help in the following way(s):
 - Candy ○ Car ○ Serve ○ Give \$\$
- Sign up for Fall Growth Group # _____.
(Last Chance to Sign Up)

Join us again next weekend as we continue *The Greatest Stories Ever Told* with “Great Stories about Wise Living.” Invite a friend to join you!

* Bible verses are from the New King James Versions (NKJV) or the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise noted.