



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

# "The Parables Of Jesus"

we have considered so far have  
centered around the  
kingdom of heaven itself...

How the "seed" of the  
kingdom would be received  
("The Sower")

Its mixed character

"The Wheat  
And The Tares",

"The Dragnet"

Its growth:

"The Mustard Seed",

"The Leaven"

Its exceeding value

"The Hidden Treasure",

"The Pearl  
Of Great Price"

The next parable we shall consider is  
one that describes  
the **character** of the citizens  
which are to make up the kingdom...

It is commonly called  
"**The Parable of the  
Unmerciful Servant**"  
(**Matthew 18:21-35**)

The occasion which led to its telling...

Peter's question about forgiving a brother - Matthew 18:21

Thinking he was being very gracious.

For many Jewish rabbis taught that three **(3)** times was sufficient

As humans living in an ungodly world we sometimes feel that underneath the forgiveness we extend to an erring brother, there lies a right to revenge which we may at any time assert.



This feeling, wherever it exists shows that we are living with **the spirit of retaliation.**

We resist the law of forgiveness and **yearn to get even.**

But Christ's law is, that **forgiveness shall be unlimited.**

- Only our Lord Jesus has taught the concept of unlimited forgiveness.
- Other sages of the past admired it but none taught it.

And as Christ Jesus is  
**the first to preach**  
unlimited forgiveness,

So He is the  
**first to practice it.**

**His enemies** had tortured Him,  
spat upon Him, smitten Him, and jeered at  
Him in a chorus of infamous blasphemy:

They nailed His holy limbs  
to the bitter cross:

**And yet**, before he could commend His  
sinless spirit into His Father's hands, He must  
intercede for His pitiless murderers

**'Father, forgive them,  
for they know not what they do.'**

**(Luke 23:34)**

Jesus informs Peter that  
the spirit of forgiveness  
**knows no boundaries.**

To **reinforce** His point,  
Jesus proceeds to tell the  
parable...

- We owe a very great deal to the fact that **Peter had a quick tongue.**
- Again and again he rushed into speech in such a way that his impulsive nature drew from Jesus teaching which is **immortal.**

- On this occasion Peter thought that he was being very generous.
- He asked Jesus how often he ought to forgive his brother, and then answered his own question by suggesting that he should forgive seven times.

It was taught that a man  
must forgive his brother  
**three times.**

The Biblical proof that this was correct  
was taken from **Amos.**

In the opening chapters of Amos there is a  
series of condemnations on the various  
nations for **three transgressions** and for  
**four**

(**Amos 1:3; 1:6; 1:9; 1:11; 1:13; 2:1;**  
**2:4; 2:6.**)



- From this it was deduced that God's forgiveness extends to three offences and that he visits the sinner with punishment at the fourth.
- It was not to be thought that a man could be more gracious than God,
  - So forgiveness was limited to three times.

- Peter thought that he was being exceedingly generous.
  - Peter expected to be warmly commended;
- But Jesus's answer was that the Christian must forgive seventy times seven.
  - In other words there is no limit to forgiveness.

- Are we to abuse the “grace” of God by refusing to forgive?
- “**What shall we say then?**
- **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?**
  - **Certainly not!**
- **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”**  
**(Romans 6:1-2)**

This is a lesson which runs through **all the New Testament.**

He who will not forgive cannot hope that God will forgive him.

**"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy"**  
**(Matthew 5:7).**

- **Romans 12:19**

**Dearly beloved, avenge  
not yourselves, but  
rather give place unto  
wrath: for it is written,  
Vengeance is mine;  
I will repay,  
saith the Lord.**

No sooner had Jesus taught his men his own prayer, than he went on to expand and explain one petition in it:

**"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you;**

**but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"**

**(Matthew 6:14-15)**.

**As James had it,**  
**"For judgment is**  
**without mercy to one**  
**who has shown no mercy"**  
**(James 2:13).**

**Divine**  
and  
**human forgiveness**  
go hand in hand.

- Why should that be so?
- One of the great points in this parable is the contrast between the two debts.



- The first servant owed his master 10,000 talents;
- A talent was the equivalent of 240 dollars;
- Therefore 10,000 talents is \$ 2,400,000.
- That is an incredible debt.

- It was more than the total budget of the average province.
- The total revenue of even a wealthy province like Galilee was only 300 talents.
- Here was a debt which was greater than a king's ransom.
- It was this that the servant was forgiven.

- The debt which a fellow-servant owed him was a trifling thing;
  - It was 100 denarii
  - A denarius was worth about 4 cents in value;
  - And therefore the total debt was less than \$5.00.

The mercy of the king goes beyond the actual request.

The request was for patience to repay the debt.

Yet the king was willing to forgive the debt entirely!

The debt is stated in **talents** and each talent represents a large sum.

So each sin against God **is great.**

Let us note the  
**Debtor's Prayer.**

**“I will repay all”**

Here the imperfect analogy,  
**for no future righteousness  
can wipe out past sin.**

**'I will pay thee all.'**

How long would it take a  
**penniless bankrupt**  
to amass 10,000 talents?

- **Rock of Ages**
- "Not the labours of my hands  
Can fulfil thy law's demands;
  - Could my zeal  
no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
**All for sin could not atone.**"

The hands which were  
wrung in agony  
only a short while before...

Are now strangling his  
'fellow-servant'.

The world is quick to notice  
when Christians show  
malice and unmercifulness.



The unmerciful servant **refuses** to heed the same plea made earlier by himself.

Upon this cruel servant the king imposes the **former sentence**, even **adding** to it!

**(Matthew 18:31-34)**

**Before**, he, his family, and his possessions were only going to be sold.

But now, he is to handed over to the **"torturers"**

**(Matthew 18:34)**

# THE LESSON OF THE PARABLE...

As stated by Jesus Himself

Matthew 18:35

**"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."**

Failure to forgive a brother will bring  
**severe punishment!**

What can **we learn** from this parable?

We are **all** God's debtors  
(**Matthew 18:23; Romans 3:23**)

**None** are able to pay what is owed -  
(**Matthew 18:25**)

But by Christ's atoning sacrifice,  
**the debt is paid** -  
(**Mt 18:27; Mt 20:28**)

Only those who are willing to forgive others  
can be assured that they are indeed forgiven.  
(Mt 18:35; Mt 6:14-15)

It should be easy to forgive others,  
for what we owe God is infinitely more  
than what others owe us  
(Mt 18:32,33)

The unforgiving person is destined for  
everlasting punishment!  
(Matthew 18:34,35; Romans 1:31)

Perhaps the most important point we learn from this parable is that the kingdom of heaven is to consist of people who are both forgiven and forgiving, who have both received mercy and are to be merciful.

**(James 2:13)**

How do we developing  
a forgiving spirit

Focus on God's forgiveness of myself.

This is where the unmerciful servant  
went wrong

This is how Paul suggested we develop  
a forgiving spirit

**(Ephesians 4:32; Col 3:13)**

- Allow the lord to help us to  
"forgive and forget".
- Some may protest and say  
"It is impossible to forget!"
- But let's first define "forget"
  - To treat with  
thoughtless inattention;
  - To neglect
  - To fail to mention
- The American Heritage Dictionary

**Technically**, we may be able  
to recall the offense  
to our minds.

But for all practical purposes,  
**we so disregard the offense**  
that it is "**out of mind**"



Is this possible?  
By the grace of God, yes!

The example of Joseph Gen 41:51

The attitude of Paul - Php 3:13

Both these men had plenty of things done to them that could have made them resentful, but God helped them to "forget" those things

When we **truly contemplate** the love, mercy, and forgiveness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus...

**It is indeed possible**  
to forgive and forget.

At least in the sense of removing it  
**from the attention of our minds**

And from  
**"The Parable Of The  
Unmerciful Servant".**

We should learn that it is essential  
that we do so.

For the citizens of the kingdom of heaven  
are to be characterized by  
the attitudes of mercy and forgiveness  
towards others

- **"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.**
- **But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."**  
**(Mt 6:14-15)**

Let us learn to not  
throw away any of our  
minutes, hours or days  
upon

**useless resentment.**

**“He that cannot forgive  
others breaks the  
bridge over which he  
must pass himself;  
for every man has need  
to be forgiven.”**

**(Unknown)**

- Jesus put no limit on forgiveness,
- For true forgiveness comes from a heart of love.
  - 1John 4:8  
**He that loves not knows not God; for God is love.**

- And love keeps no record of wrongs.

- 1 Corinthians 13:5

Love does not keep a record of wrongs.



- John Patton in his book, **Is Human Forgiveness Possible?**, puts it this way:

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- **“Human forgiveness is not doing something, but discovering something —**
- **that I am more like those who have hurt me,**
- **than different from them.”**

- In other words,  
**human forgiveness**  
is possible only when  
we have really experienced  
God's forgiveness.
- **We all need forgiveness,**
  - A **second** chance.
    - And a **third**,
  - And a **fourth**, etc.

- **Isaiah 1:18**

**Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.**

**Doors of the church  
are open.**

**Spirit & Bride Say  
“Come”**

**Revelation 22:16**

