

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." Matthew 18:32-35

Weight Lifted

I want you to do something for me. Anything Lord, you just say the word. What is it? **I want you to think about all the people that have hurt you in some way throughout your life.** That might take some time. **I'm sure that it will.** It's going to be a fairly long list. **The longer, the better. I don't want you to forget anyone or anything that has been done to you.** This seems like kind of a weird request coming from you. **Yes, I'm sure that it does. Take however long you need to today to work on your list and come back to me. Will you do that?** Yes Lord, I will.

I'm back. **That took quite a while.** Yes it did. **Is your list as exhaustive as it can possibly be?** I think so. **Do you have all your enemies written down?** Yes, it was easy to remember them. **How about everyone that has cheated, lied or stolen from you?** They're all on here. **How about people who broke their promises or betrayed you?** Oh, a couple more names just came to mind. **Write them down.** Got it. **Do you have everyone that hurt, rejected, judged or manipulated you?** You weren't kidding about not leaving any names off the list. **No, I wasn't.** Ok, I've added a few more names. **How about anyone who disappointed you, didn't follow through or live up to your expectations?** Slow down a little bit. I'm writing. **Has anyone ever used, rejected or devalued you?** Yes! **Are they on the list?** Not yet. **I'll wait. Are you done now?** Yes, I think so. **That's good.**

What would you like to do with the people on that list? Could you zap them for me? **No, I cannot. This is a serious moment for you, let's not joke around.** Alright, I'm just a little nervous about how long this list is. **Why is that?** I'm pretty sure that I shouldn't have this kind of a list. **Why not?** It's a really heavy burden to carry. **How so?** It has worn me out carrying anger and unforgiveness around for so long. **Yes, it has. That's why I had you make a list. I wanted you to see that you are being weighed down by unforgiveness.** I'm getting a pretty clear picture right now, that's for sure.

What do you want to do with all these people on your list? I want to do for them what you've done for me. **What's that?** I want to love and forgive them. **There are some pretty nasty people on your list. Are you sure you want to forgive them?** I was once a pretty nasty person. **Yes, you were.** You forgave me. **Yes, I did.** So, yes I want to forgive everyone on my list. I want to do for them what you've done for me. So, I'm forgiving them all right now. **That's very good. How do you feel?** Like a weight has been lifted. **As a matter of fact, it has.**

Lord, you have forgiven me of an enormous debt of sin, at great cost to you, that I could never hope to repay. I am so thankful for your forgiveness. Help me to have a forgiving heart towards others like you have had toward me. Amen

Parables*The Unmerciful Servant*

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

NIV

Matthew 18:32-35

Parables*The Unmerciful Servant*

Then 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. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

NLT

Matthew 18:32-35

Parables*The Unmerciful Servant*

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

NRSV

Matthew 18:32-35

Parables*The Unmerciful Servant*

Then his master called him and said to him, 'You contemptible and wicked attendant! I forgave and cancelled all that [great] debt of yours because you begged me to. And should you not have had pity and mercy on your fellow attendant, as I had pity and mercy on you? And in wrath his master turned him over to the torturers (the jailers), till he should pay all that he owed. So also My heavenly Father will deal with every one of you if you do not freely forgive your brother from your heart his offenses.'

AMP

Matthew 18:32-35

Parables*The Unmerciful Servant*

"Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ~'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

NASB

Matthew 18:32-35

Parables*The Unmerciful Servant*

Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

ESV

Matthew 18:32-35

Parables*The Unmerciful Servant*

Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

NKJV

Matthew 18:32-35

Parables*The Unmerciful Servant*

"The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

MSG

Matthew 18:32-35

Parables*The Unmerciful Servant*

And the king called before him the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil-hearted wretch! Here I forgave you all that tremendous debt, just because you asked me to— shouldn't you have mercy on others, just as I had mercy on you?' "Then the angry king sent the man to the torture chamber until he had paid every last penny due. So shall my heavenly Father do to you if you refuse to truly forgive your brothers."

TLB

Matthew 18:32-35

Parables*The Unmerciful Servant*

"Then the master called his servant in and said, 'You evil servant! Because you begged me to forget what you owed, I told you that you did not have to pay anything. You should have showed mercy to that other servant, just as I showed mercy to you.' The master was very angry and put the servant in prison to be punished until he could pay everything he owed. "This king did what my heavenly Father will do to you if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

NCV

Matthew 18:32-35

The Unmerciful Servant

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Parables – Matthew 18:32-35

In Context: Read Matthew 18

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." Matthew 18:32-35

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Then | the master | called the servant in. | 'You wicked servant,' | he said, | 'I canceled all | that debt | of yours | because you | begged me to. | Shouldn't you | have had | mercy on | your fellow servant | just as | I had | on you?' | In anger | his master | turned him over | to the jailers | to be tortured, | until he should | pay back | all he owed. | "This is how | my heavenly Father | will treat | each of you | unless you | forgive your brother | from | your heart." Matthew 18:32-35

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, you have forgiven me of an enormous debt of sin, at great cost to you, that I could never hope to repay. I am so thankful for your forgiveness. Help me to have a forgiving heart towards others like you have had toward me. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What did God do to pay for the enormous debt you had toward Him that you had no hope of ever repaying?

How has the forgiveness you received from Christ motivated you to want to be forgiving toward others?

When have you forgiven someone of something even though you had every right to expect to be repaid?

When have you treated others in ways that are exactly opposite of the way God Has treated you?

How does your willingness or unwillingness to forgive others reveal the true condition of your heart?

How has the Lord been able to use you as a witness in the world for Him because you had a forgiving heart?

When has the Lord been able to restore a relationship for you through an act of forgiveness?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Ask the Lord to give you a soft heart that is willing to forgive others just as you have also been forgiven.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will give you a forgiving heart so that you can be a witness for Him in the world.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you have been able to forgive others when you were wronged.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

