



THE PARABLES OF JESUS
“THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT”
MATT. 18: 21-35

AFTER HEARING JESUS SPEAK ON RECONCILIATION, PETER REALIZED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO EXERCISE A FORGIVING SPIRIT. BUT HOW OFTEN WOULD HE HAVE TO DO SO? THE RABBIS HAD DECIDED THAT THREE TIMES WAS ACCEPTABLE, BUT PETER THOUGHT HE WAS BEING MAGNANIMOUS WHEN HE SUGGESTED TO JESUS THAT SEVEN WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. JESUS DISMISSED THAT WITH HIS “SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN” RESPONSE. HE THEN RELATED A PARABLE TO ILLUSTRATE THAT GOD IS MUCH MORE FORGIVING THAN WE EVER THOUGHT TO BE.

I. THE MAN AND HIS DEBT (VV. 23-27)

JESUS SAID THIS MAN OWED THE KING AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF MONEY. WHILE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO TRANSLATE BIBLE MONEY INTO PRESENT-DAY EQUIVALENTS, IT WOULD BE SAFE TO SAY THAT THIS MAN OWED MILLIONS! IT WOULD LITERALLY HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR THIS MAN TO REPAY HIS DEBT.

WHEN THE DAY OF ACCOUNTING CAME, THE MAN WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KING AND HE WAS FOUND TO BE BANKRUPT. THE KING COMMANDED THAT HE BE SOLD, ALONG WITH HIS FAMILY. THE MAN’S ONLY HOPE WAS TO CAST HIMSELF ON THE KING’S MERCY. THE KING WAS WILLING TO FORGIVE THE DEBT BECAUSE HE WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION.

HOW LIKE THIS MAN WE ARE. WE OWE THE LORD A DEBT WE CAN NEVER REPAY. IT IS ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS MERCY THAT WE ARE FORGIVEN THE DEBT. JESUS PAID IT ALL!

II. THE MAN AND HIS DEED (VV. 28-30)

THE MAN’S INDEBTEDNESS WAS CANCELED, BUT HIS NATURE WAS UNCHANGED. HE WAS THE SAME HARSH, CRUEL MAN HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN. HE HAD BEEN FORGIVEN, BUT HE WAS NEITHER JUSTIFIED NOR REGENERATED. FORGIVENESS, WHEN PROPERLY RECEIVED, RESULTS IN A CHANGE OF BEHAVIOR THAT REFLECTS GENUINE CONVERSION. AS IN THE CASE WITH THIS MAN, WE CAN BE FORGIVEN, YET GO ON TO AGGRAVATE THE LORD AND MAKE JUDGMENT INEVITABLE.

THIS MAN’S FORGIVENESS WAS CONTINGENT ON A FURTHER WORK OF GRACE BEING DONE IN HIS HEART TOWARD HIS FELLOWMAN. HE WAS TOTALLY UNFORGIVING TO A MAN WHO OWED HIM A PALTRY AMOUNT COMPARED TO THE ENORMOUS SUM HE OWED THE KING. THE MAN WHO HAD RECEIVED AN ABUNDANT AMOUNT OF MERCY GAVE NO MERCY WHATSOEVER. THE MERCY EXTENDED TOWARD HIM HAD NOT SOFTENED HIS HEART ONE IOTA.

GOD’S FORGIVENESS TOWARD US OUGHT TO MAKE US MORE FORGIVING TOWARD OTHERS; AFTER ALL, COULD THEY POSSIBLY OWE US MORE THAN WE OWE GOD?!

III. THE MAN AND HIS DOOM (VV. 31-35)

WHEN THE EVIL MAN’S WICKEDNESS WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS MASTER, THE KING HAD HIM ARRESTED IMMEDIATELY. THE GREEK WORD USED TO DESCRIBE HIM AS “WICKED” LITERALLY REFERS TO HUMAN DEPRAVITY AND THE OUTWORKING OF OUR EVIL NATURE. NOW THIS MAN IS FORCED TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS WICKED AND UNREGENERATE HEART. BECAUSE OF HIS UNMERCIFUL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SERVANT WHO OWED HIM MONEY, HE WAS NOW GOING TO FACE THE MOST SEVERE PUNISHMENT POSSIBLE. MERCY BY THE KING HAD NOW BEEN REPLACED BY WRATH.

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



APPLICATION

THIS MAN'S ACTION REVEALED AN ALL TOO COMMON ONE OF TODAY: PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN HAVE BEEN UNFORGIVING TOWARD OTHERS. WHAT RIGHT DO WE HAVE NOT TO FORGIVE OTHERS WHEN GOD HAS GRACIOUSLY FORGIVEN US? WHEN WE DISPLAY THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE, THEN GOD, LIKE THE KING IN THE PARABLE, HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO RENDER JUDGMENT TOWARD US.