

July 4, 2021

# SUMMER PARABLES

**"UNLIMITED MERCY"**

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**MATTHEW 18:21-35**

**QUESTION POSED TO JESUS:** "How many times should I forgive someone?"

**TRUTH:** The kingdom of heaven takes an extreme approach to forgiveness.

To understand Jesus' answer to this question, consider the following implications:

1. Ponder the magnitude of your own debt (vv. 23-27).

**TRUTH:** Our sin debt is utterly unpayable.

**TRUTH:** God's forgiveness eliminates our debt completely.

2. Those who receive forgiveness are expected to give forgiveness (vv. 28-30).

**TRUTH:** In comparison, the debts owed us are miniscule compared to the debt we have been forgiven by God.

**TRUTH:** The grace we have received is of such a magnitude that we are compelled to release our perceived rights over debts owed to us.

**INSIGHT:** When dealing with wrongs done to us, we often fail to hear the echo of our own plea for forgiveness.

3. Withholding forgiveness after experiencing it yourself leads to a hard truth (vv. 31-35).

**TRUTH:** Jesus calls this hypocrisy wicked.

**TRUTH:** The Father will deal justly with those who hoard mercy.

**ONE LAST REMINDER:** This is not just a parable about forgiveness but repeated forgiveness (v. 21).

**NEXT STEPS:**

1. Give renewed praise to the Father for the debt He has forgiven you in Christ Jesus.
2. Work through the process of forgiveness with those God brought to mind during this message.