



**March 26, 2023**  
**Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**

**Matthew 18:23-35**

Summary – In this passage, Jesus shows us that forgiveness is more than just a nice gesture. It is an essential part of being a follower of Christ. We have all been forgiven a debt we cannot pay, and we should show the same mercy to others. When we refuse to forgive, we are revealing that we have excluded ourselves from the community of sinners - Jesus says that is wickedness.

Scripture – Matthew 18:23-35; Romans 8:14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 6:9-15; Matthew 25:31-46; Psalm 94

**Community Group Questions:**

(There is no obligation to discuss every question/quotation)

**Introduction**

- What does it mean to forgive someone?

**The Magnitude of the Debt Forgiven** (Romans 8:14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20)

- Who are you in the Matthew 18 parable and why?
- Why is it important to recognize when we sin, we commit treason in God's Kingdom?

**The Obligation to Forgive** (Matthew 18:32-35)

- Why is the believer obligated to forgive?

**The Consequences of Unforgiveness** (Matthew 6:9-15)

- "Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies." – Nelson Mandela

**How to Forgive**

- "Forgiveness flounders because I exclude my enemy from the community of humans and I exclude myself from the community of sinners." – Miroslav Volf
- Is the person who hurt you a three dimensional person or are they just the sin that you have labeled them?
- What are the challenges/benefits of **forgetting** trespasses after we've **forgiven** them?
- What has helped you forgive others?

**Cancel the Debt**

- Forgiveness costs something. "You will either be covered in Jesus' blood or your own."