

35. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

35. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

- a) This story really tells itself. Anyone can see how wrong the servant was, and how cruel he was to his fellow servant. You might ask children why he did that. Maybe one reason is that he wasn't thinking about how kind the king had been to him.
- b) Ten thousand talents would be worth more than forty million dollars in the United States. No worker could possibly pay that back in his whole lifetime. The one-hundred denarii or pence that the other servant owed would be worth a little over \$700. Given time, he could have paid it back.



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The Lord Tells a Story About Forgiving

Peter came to Jesus and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but seventy times seven.”

Then He told this story. “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted his servants to pay him what they owed him. One servant was brought to him who owed him ten-thousand talents. But he was not able to pay him, so his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made to the king. The servant fell down before him saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ Then the master of that servant felt sorry for him, and let him go, and forgave him what he owed.

“But then that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a smaller amount. He laid hands on him and took him by the throat saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ But he would not. He threw him into prison until he could pay.

“Now when the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset and came and told their master. Then the master called the man and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that you owed me because you begged me. Should you not also have felt sorry for your fellow servant and forgiven him, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry and put him in jail until he could pay all that he owed.

“So this your heavenly Father will do to you if you, from your heart, do not forgive your brother his wrongdoings.”

Matthew 18

