

# Lesson Two: The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

## Matthew 18:21-35

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21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest!

29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses. (KJV)

1. What prompted Jesus to speak this parable?
2. What does it mean "to reckon" (v. 24)?
3. Why did the king forgive the servant?
4. How does the amount owed by the fellow-servant to the unmerciful servant compare to the amount forgiven by the king to the unmerciful servant?
5. Contrast the attitude of the unmerciful servant toward his fellow-servant to the attitude of the king toward the unmerciful servant.
6. Were the fellow-servants of verse 31 wrong in informing their master of the actions of the unmerciful servant? Explain your answer.
7. What is the central meaning of this parable?
8. Cite other passages of Scripture which teach the same idea as this parable.