

**Agape House of Worship  
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

**Bible Study Series: Speaking in Parables**  
**Lesson 8: The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**

**Date: March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**  
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**Introduction:** During the time of Jesus' ministry on earth, He was a master storyteller and frequently used story telling in his teachings to illustrate deep truths and lessons about the King (God) and his Kingdom. In Lesson 8 of this Bible Study Series, "Speaking in Parables", we will discuss the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant which Jesus told as a response to question on forgiveness asked by one of his disciples, Peter. This is a very relatable parable as life in a fallen world is all too often characterized by broken trust, strained relationships, and unmet expectations. Intentionally or not, we are constantly hurting others and being hurt by them. As we explore this parable, we will see how God's abundant forgiveness changes the way we live and related to Him and the people around us.

**Text: Matthew 18:21-35 (NKJV)**

**Key Figures/Elements in the parable**

**The King:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Settling of accounts:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Servant A:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Servant B:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ten thousand talent debt** \_\_\_\_\_

**A hundred denarii** \_\_\_\_\_

**The King's response to Servant A's debt:** \_\_\_\_\_ (kindness and compassion, not giving the punishment he deserved) and \_\_\_\_\_ (unmerited favor, received something he didn't deserve).

**Servant A's response to Servant B's debt:** \_\_\_\_\_

***What is Forgiveness? What is Forgiveness Not?***

## What spiritual principles do this parable teach?

- The debt of sin we owed was beyond our capacity to ever re-pay. *Romans 3:23. Romans 6:23.*
- Jesus took that debt and repaid it for us, so we are debt free! Forgiven completely! *Romans 5:8-10. Romans 5:6-10.*
- Not only did He forgive, but He also restored you and made you righteous.
- The weight of this debt is greater than any offense we have received or will ever receive.
- Jesus is teaching us to show mercy and grace, forgive others as we have been forgiven. *Ephesians 4:32 (NIV), Colossians 3:13 (NLT).*
- If we don't forgive those who wrong or hurt us, God would not forgive us. *Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT).*
- When we choose unforgiveness, we are Servant A

A reflection and understanding of how we have been forgiven by God should be an inspiration and motivation to forgive anyone who offends us.

## The Burden of Unforgiveness

1. Choosing unforgiveness is choosing to continuously live in sin.
2. Unforgiveness is wickedness.
3. Unforgiveness opens the door to torment or attack from the devil. This torment could be emotionally, mentally or physically. Unforgiveness has been scientifically linked to depression, heart disease, hypertension, stroke, anxiety, and low self-esteem.
4. Unforgiveness keeps our prayers from being answered. *Mark 11:24-25.*
5. Unforgiveness is disobedience.

### ***Why do we struggle with unforgiveness?***

## Dealing with unforgiveness

1. Reflect on how much you have been forgiven. *Romans 5:6-10.*
2. Decide to forgive. Forgiveness is not a feeling.
3. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit
4. Break the stronghold of unforgiveness in prayer. *2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV). "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ".*
5. Expect offense to come and choose to live unoffended.