

**THE GREATEST STORYTELLER**  
*Exploring the Life-Changing Stories of Jesus*  
Lesson #4 – Forgive Like Jesus

**TEXT: Matthew 18:21-35**

In our parable today Jesus tells a story to help us understand just how important forgiveness is for His followers. (READ Matthew 18:21) Why do you think Peter asked Jesus this question?

What was Jesus' response to Peter? (READ Matthew 18:22)

**I. WE ARE COMMANDED TO FORGIVE OTHERS.**

(READ Matthew 6:14-15) What does Jesus say will occur if we forgive others? What will happen if we don't forgive others?

Jesus then proceeds to share this insightful parable, in order to dramatically illustrate his point. (READ Matthew 18:23-25)

This servant owed the king about 10 million dollars! What offer did the king make for repayment?

How did the servant respond? (READ Matthew 18:26-27) So what did the king do?

We could never Repay the enormous Debt that we owe God for our Sins. The more we understand the debt that God has forgiven us, the more eager we will be to forgive other People. (READ Colossians 3:13)

(READ Matthew 18:28-30) The amount this fellow servant owed was the equivalent of a Few thousand dollars.

**II. AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.**

Then Jesus concluded His story. (READ Matthew 18:31-34) What then was the point of Jesus' parable? (READ Matthew 18:35)

So what must we do, in order to be forgiven? (READ Mark 11:25)

### **III. THE RESULTS OF A FORGIVING SPIRIT**

A. A Forgiving Spirit Requires Trust in God's Justice.

(READ Romans 12:19-20) Be patient and trust God, that He will bring about justice in the end.

B. A Forgiving Spirit Relinquishes our Right to Retaliate.

Jesus looked down from the cross upon those who were crucifying Him and He prayed, "*Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.*" (Luke 23:33-34)

C. A Forgiving Spirit Restores our Relationships with Others.

Jesus reconciled us back to God. Now He has given us the Ministry of reconciling people back to a right Relationship with God and with His people. (READ 2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

### **IV. HOW THEN SHOULD WE FORGIVE LIKE JESUS?**

A. Release your Bitterness and Submit to God  
(READ Ephesians 4:31)

B. Remember How Much the Lord has Forgiven You.  
(READ Ephesians 4:32)

C. Reach Out with Love and Kindness to Those who have Hurt You. (READ 2 Corinthians 1:3-4)