

OPEN

Do you have any idea what makes us stingy as it relates to forgiving those who have sinned against us, multiple times?

MATTHEW 18:23-35

²³ “For this reason, the kingdom of heaven can be compared to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, one who owed ten thousand talents was brought before him. ²⁵ Since he did not have the money to pay it back, his master commanded that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt.

²⁶ “At this, the servant fell facedown before him and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything.’

²⁷ Then the master of that servant had compassion, released him, and forgave him the loan.

²⁸ “That servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him, started choking him, and said, ‘Pay what you owe!’

²⁹ “At this, his fellow servant fell down and began begging him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ ³⁰ But he wasn’t willing. Instead, he went and threw him into prison until he could pay what was owed. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had taken place, they were deeply distressed and went and reported to their master everything that had happened. ³² Then, after he had

summoned him, his master said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.

³³ Shouldn’t you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And because he was angry, his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured until he could pay everything that was owed. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to you unless every one of you forgives his brother or sister from your heart.”

DISCOVER (Matthew 18:23-35)

Parables take earthly examples to teach lessons about God’s kingdom. First, always seek to identify what’s what in the story Jesus tells.

If you and God the Father were in this parable, which two would you be?

Why is “mercy” or “forgiveness” so critical to life in the kingdom of Christ Jesus?

DEEPEN

Parables have something to teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven

What is the risk to you if you are stingy in showing mercy or forgiveness to others?

What does it look like to forgive from the heart?

