

# The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant - Study Guide

## Read Matthew 18: 21-35

In the parable, whom might each of the characters represent?

\*King/master - ? - (God)

\*1<sup>st</sup> servant - ? - (me)

\*2<sup>nd</sup> servant - ? - (someone who sins against me)

\*other servants - ? - (fellow believers)

## Questions

### 1. In this parable, how do your sins against God compare to the sins others do against you?

-my sins are huge debts to God in comparison to very insignificant wrongs by others against me

### Colossians 3:13 says, "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

How has the Lord forgiven you?

Note how each passage describes how He has forgiven you:

-**Psalm 103:12** "as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."(NIV)

-**Isaiah 44:22** I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."(NIV)

-**Jeremiah 31:34** "No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."(NIV)

-**Romans 5:7-8** "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NIV)

### 2. How is my debt to God greater than someone else's debt to me?

### 3. What distressed the other servants, and, later, the king? Why would this be distressing?

-the severity of my anger towards my fellow servant

-the fact that I was so quick to turn around and act unmercifully when I had just been forgiven

-the pride in my heart that said I could ever actually pay the enormous debt I owed by myself

### 4. What effect does not forgiving have on your relationship with God? Why?

-when I do not forgive, God's Justice makes Him unable to forgive me

### 5. In verse 34, what tortures could Jesus mean in the parable? In other words, what negative experiences have you experienced, or seen others experience, as a result of unforgiveness?

-answers will vary - think of some of your own experiences