

## **Parables of Grace**

### ***Forgiving Grace: The Unforgiving Servant***

(Matthew 18:21-35)

- Introduction:
1. Forgiveness is an interesting thing. It's something we all want but it's also something we struggle giving to others.
  2. Everyone here is aware of your need for forgiveness.
  3. However, is there someone in your life you are unwilling to forgive?
  4. When I say, "unwilling to forgive," I'm talking about a person who has repented and asked for your forgiveness.
  5. If so, this parable speaks to you.

#### **I. Recounting the Parable**

- A. (Matthew 18:21-35).
- B. This parable is spoken in response to Peter's statement (Matthew 18:21; Amos 1-2).
- C. In this parable, two men are debtors, one is forgiven a great sum of money, yet he was unwilling to forgive another who owed a small amount of money.
- D. Because of this his debt was reinstated and his forgiveness was repealed.

#### **II. Lessons from the Parable**

- A. We Need a Balanced View of God.
  1. Many love to speak of how God is rich in mercy (Psalm 136; 103:1-14).
  2. But we learn more about God's character in this passage.
  3. The same God who is rich in forgiveness is demanding of those who will not forgive (Matthew 18:43-35).
  4. (Romans 11:22).
  5. We need to renounce the God we have fashioned to our liking, and embrace the true God as revealed in Scripture (Numbers 14:18).
- B. We must forgive to be forgiven.
  1. (Matthew 18:34-35).
  2. (James 2:13).
  3. In response to the grace that has been extended to us, there can only be one righteous response to those who seek our forgiveness.

- Conclusion:
1. This parable reminds me of the graciousness of God.
  2. It also reminds me that the greatest thing I can do for myself is to forgive those who seek forgiveness.