

The Unforgiving Servant

Matthew ch 18: v 21 - v 35

- v21 Peter asked the Lord Jesus how often he should forgive his brother (or neighbour) when he had done something against him. Peter even suggested that he might forgive him or her seven times.
- v22 Seven times is perhaps better than nothing, but the Lord Jesus answered Peter by telling him to forgive seventy times seven, or in other words, he was saying to have a forgiving heart all the time.
- v23 The Lord Jesus then went on to tell this story, the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who thought it was time to get in all his money that he had loaned out to his servants.
- v24 The books were carefully checked and one servant was brought before the king because he owed the king ten thousand talents. (This was a huge amount of money.)

Picture 1.

- v25 Unfortunately the servant had no money to pay the king back with, so the king ordered him to be sold along with his wife and children and all that he had.

Picture 2

- v26 When the servant heard that, he fell down and worshiped the king and asked him to be patient with him and to give him time to pay back all the money he owed.
- v27 The king felt sorry for the servant, so he let him off with the debt and set him free.

Picture 3

- v28 The servant was a very happy man when he left the king's palace. "Yipee! He let me off with all that money I owed him and now I'm free to go!" he shouted joyfully.

Picture 4

But as the servant made his way home, he spots someone who owed him money. "Well well, look who it is, you owe me a hundred pence!" said the servant gruffly. "I'm sorry, but I've no money!" replied the poor man.

Picture 5

The servant took the unfortunate man by the throat and shouted, "Pay up, pay me what you owe!"

Picture 6

- v29 Then the poor fellow fell down at the servant's feet and pleaded, "Have patience with me and I'll pay back every penny!" But the servant wouldn't listen to his pleading.

Picture 7 v30 So he called to a soldier who was passing by, "You there soldier, this rogue owes me money and he won't pay it back, so throw him into the prison and keep him there until he pays me back!"

v31 But someone saw all that had gone on, and he reported what he'd seen to the king.

Picture 8

v32 So the king sent for the servant and in a stern voice said, "You wicked servant, I let you off with that huge amount of money that you owed me, because I felt sorry for you. Shouldn't you have had pity on the poor man who owed you a little sum of money? Guard, throw him into prison!"

Picture 9

"Oh no, I'm here until I pay back every penny, and that's going to be impossible. It looks like I'm going to be here for the rest of my life!"

Just as the king had a book recording the debts owed to him, God has a record of every person's debts or sins.

Romans
ch 3 v23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...

In our story the king took pity on his servant, and pardoned him. In doing this, it cost the king ten thousand talents.

God is always ready, and willing to pardon us too, but we must repent of our sins and ask the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us and to come into our lives as Lord and Saviour. It may have cost the king a lot of money, but it was nothing compared to the price that was paid for our salvation. God gave up his beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross at Calvary, where he shed his precious blood, that we might have our sins washed away.

John
ch 3 v16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Please note, our story doesn't teach that we can lose our salvation. When the unforgiving servant was eventually thrown into prison, it was because he had never really been sorry for his wrongdoing, if he had been, he would have forgiven the poor man that owed him money. This is like a person who says that he or she is a Christian, but they've never really repented of their sins and trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ. If they had done this, the new life of the Lord Jesus would show in their lives, and they would certainly now have a forgiving heart.

Every blessing in our Lord Jesus Christ,
Jim Glen.

1 John
ch 2 v6

He that saith he abideth in him (Lord Jesus Christ) ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.