

# Matthew 18:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

## Analysis

**So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry** (έλυπήθησαν σφόδρα, elypēthēsan sphodra)—the Greek indicates profound grief and distress. The fellow servants weren't merely disappointed but deeply troubled by the injustice. This public dimension is crucial: the wicked servant's hypocrisy and cruelty offended the moral sensibilities of the community. Forgiveness is never purely private—our treatment of others reflects God's character (or our distortion of it) before watching witnesses.

**And came and told unto their lord all that was done** (διεσάφησαν, diesaphēsan)—'explained fully, made clear.' They provided complete testimony, not gossip. This appeals to higher authority for justice mirrors how creation itself 'groans' under sin's weight (Rom 8:22) and how the blood of martyrs 'cries out' for vindication (Rev 6:10). God sees and will address all injustice.

## Historical Context

In ancient patron-client relationships, servants of the same master formed communities with shared interests. Reporting serious offenses to the lord was expected—maintaining household order required transparency. The fellow servants' grief reflects the corporate nature of ancient Mediterranean society, where individual actions affected the whole community's honor and well-being.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does your treatment of others reflect on God's character to watching 'fellow servants' around you?
2. What does the fellow servants' grief over injustice teach about the proper Christian response to unforgiveness and hypocrisy in the church?
3. How should knowing that witnesses report to the Lord affect your private dealings with those who've wronged you?

## Interlinear Text

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ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ σύνδουλοι ἀντῶν τὰ γενόμενα  
saw So G3588 fellowservants when his G3588 that was done  
G1492 G1161 G4889 G846 G1096

ἐλυπήθησαν σφόδρα καὶ ἐλθόντες διεσάφησαν τῷ  
sorry they were very and came and told G3588  
G3076 G4970 G2532 G2064 G1285 G1096

κυρίῳ ἀντῶν πάντα τὰ γενόμενα  
lord when his all G3588 that was done  
G2962 G846 G3956 G1096

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 12:15** (Parallel theme): Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

**Hebrews 13:3** (Parallel theme): Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

**Mark 3:5** (Parallel theme): And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

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