

The Unmerciful Servant

A servant owes his master millions but is forgiven. He then refuses to forgive a fellow servant who owes him a tiny amount. The master punishes his unforgiving heart.

Matthew 18:21-35

CHARACTERS: Jesus, King, Unmerciful servant, Fellow servant

THEMES: Forgiveness, Mercy, Hypocrisy, God's forgiveness

THEN PETER CAME to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?'

Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'

Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything." The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded.

His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay it back." But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison.

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything.

Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger his master handed him over to the jailers.

This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org