

Sermon Study Guide – Matthew 18:21-35

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Title: “The Unmerciful Servant”

Sermon Idea: Forgiveness received is the basis for forgiveness given.

Key Points:

1. Forgiveness in the kingdom is unlimited.
2. We are to forgive as we’ve been forgiven.
3. The cost of unforgiveness is torment.

What do I want people to know? I want people to know that the mercy of God is endless for the repentant sinner and that the true believer will give it out just as generously.

What do I want people to do? I want people to (1) actively deal with obstacles to forgiveness, (2) forgive those who have harmed them and (3) re-preach the gospel to themselves continually.

What need am I addressing? I am addressing the need to forgive as we’ve been forgiven.

Recommended Resources: “*Choosing Forgiveness*,” Nancy DeMoss; “*Forgiveness*,” Tim Keller

Intro: When someone “gets what they deserve,” how do you typically feel?

Dig:

Day 1: Genesis 4:23-24 tells the story about Lamech’s cry for vengeance. What is behind our demand for justice and revenge?

Day 2: Matthew 7:1-6 informs us that we will be judged as we judge others. What steps should we take before judging others?

Day 3: James 2:12-13 urges us to speak and act in accord with the gospel. What does it mean that “mercy triumphs over judgment?” In what way does it do so?

Day 4: Matthew 6:14-15 describes that fate of those who don’t forgive. Does this mean we can lose our salvation? What’s the difference between refusing to forgive and struggling to forgive?

Day 5: Matthew 5:7 declares that the merciful are blessed. Describe what mercy looks like in everyday life - at home, at the office, at play. What does this ‘blessed life’ look like?

Apply:

1. Spend time making a list of all that you are grateful for in situations where you are struggling to forgive.
2. Ask God to give you the strength to forgive those who’ve hurt you.
3. Re-preach the gospel to yourself every day to be prepared to show mercy.

Pray: Lord Jesus, You have shown me incredible mercy in forgiving my sin. While I was a sinner, You died for me. What mercy! May I walk in the same spirit of mercy that You display. In Jesus’ name, amen.
