

Lesson 18: Teaching on Forgiveness

Objective: To learn that since God forgave us we must learn to forgive others.

Background: For several months Jesus was out of Galilee to avoid (get away from) the religious leaders so He could teach and prepare the twelve disciples because He would soon die in Jerusalem. On their way back from Caesarea Phillippi, the disciples had an argument, so Jesus taught them how to treat one another (Matthew 18). It was the last teaching Jesus gave in Galilee before going up to Jerusalem.

Instructions: Read over carefully Matthew 18:21-35 and try to act out the parable.

Let's Think: Listen carefully to what Jesus is telling you.

Occasion – Always find out first why Jesus told the parable (Matthew 18:21)

1. a) What did Peter want to know about forgiveness? What did he suggest? Do you think Peter was pretty good? (Matthew 18:21)

b) What was Jesus answer? Did He think Peter was generous? (Matthew 18:22)

Parable – Remember why Jesus told the parable as you study it. (Matthew 18:23-36)

2. Scene I – The King (the creditor) and the servant (the debtor) (Matthew 18:23-27)

a) How much did the servant owe the King? Could he possibly pay back what he owed?

b) Had the King insisted that the servant pay back his debt (what he owed)? Why? What do you think of the King?

3. Scene II – The servant (the creditor) and his fellow servants (the debtor) (Matthew 18:28-30)

a) How much did his fellow servant owe Him? Could he possibly pay back his debt?

b) Did the servant treat his fellow servant the way the King had treated him? Explain. What do you think of the servant?

4. Scene III – The King (the creditor) and the servant (the debtor) (Matthew 18:31-34)
a) Was the King pleased to hear about the behavior of the servant? Explain.

b) How was the servant treated at the end? Why? What's wrong with him?

Lesson – Always find out the lesson the parable tries to teach. (Matthew 18:35; Matthew 6:12,14,15)

5. a) What lesson does Jesus give at the end of the parable? (Matthew 18:35) How does it answer Peter's question in verse 21? How often do we forgive?

b) Why does God want us to forgive others? Read Romans 5:8 and Ephesians 4:32

Practice – Listen carefully what Jesus is telling you to do through the parable.

6. Is there one person Jesus wants you to forgive? Would you obey? If so complete the following sentence, but you must really mean it!

I, _____(your name) want to forgive _____(name of the one you need to forgive) from my heart because I remember how much God loved me and forgave me. (Give the date)

Let's Remember: "So also my Heavenly Father will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart." (Matthew 18:35)

