

## Group/Individual Study

Series - The Greatest Stories Ever Told: The Unmerciful servant

Passages: Matthew 18:21-35

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 8/19

1. What do you think was behind Peter's question in verse 21? What do you think he hoped to hear from Jesus in asking it? What thoughts or concerns does needing to forgive "seventy-seven" times bring up for you?
2. The meaning of the parable becomes more clear when you understand the value of the two debts it focuses on.
  - The servant owed the king "10,000 bags of gold" which in other translations is rendered "10,000 talents of gold." A single talent of gold was worth what the average laborer would earn in 20 years -- and this servant owed the king 10,000 of them.
  - The second servant owed the first servant "100 pieces of silver." That's what an average person would earn in 100 days.
3. How do the relative amount of these debts inform what Jesus is teaching in this parable? The debt the first servant owed was "unpayable," even if he had many lifetimes to chip away at it. How does this reflect God's forgiveness? How does reflecting on the vastness of God's forgiveness of you, empower you to forgive others?
4. Though much smaller than what the servant owed the king, 100 days wages isn't a small thing; it's real money. A theologian once said, "You don't get to actually practice forgiveness until someone has genuinely wronged you." How does this inform us about the nature of forgiving one another?
5. The king was rightfully angry with the unmerciful servant after he heard of his treatment of his fellow servant. Jesus seems to be implying that unforgiveness on our part can disqualify us for receiving God's forgiveness. Why do you think this is so?
6. What have you found that helps you practically live into the forgiveness Jesus calls us to? Is there someone you are struggling to forgive right now? Can forgiveness and "tough love" go together?