

**THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD
OPEN HEAVENS ASSEMBLY
JOHANNESBURG
DIGGING DEEP**

THE PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

Text: Matthew 18:21-35

INTRODUCTION

The parable of the unforgiving servant is a story of God's love and His unconditional forgiveness of our sins and trespasses. It illustrates the extent to which we must forgive and the reasons why we should. This parable answer the fundamental question of how often we should forgive anyone that offends us. May the Lord give us the grace to forgive from our hearts in Jesus name.

LESSONS FROM THE PARABLE OF UNFORGIVING SERVANT

1. Unforgiveness is a sin. Mk 11: 25-26
2. The unforgiving servant showed no appreciation for his own forgiveness. In his relationship with his fellow brother, he was hard and cruel. Matt 18: 32-33; Lk 12: 48
3. We cannot repay back the judgement of God against our sins. Our sins are too costly to be repaid by our money, efforts or good works. We are forgiven and saved by grace. We have no reasons not to forgive others. Eph. 2:4-5
4. We live in a fallen world and imperfect society. People will always offend each other, step on each other's toes, wrong each other, mistreat, hurt or owe each other. These situations will require forgiving and being forgiven of each other all the time. James 3: 2; 2 Corinthians 6:3
5. We must not be bitter, resentful or vengeful. Our attitude must be based on love, mercy and compassion. 1 Peter 4:7-8; Ephesians 4:31-32
6. Understanding God's forgiveness should make us more willing to forgive. Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 12:17-21.
7. God will not forgive those who do not forgive others. The degree or level of hurt against us must not deter us from forgiving others. Matthew 6:14-15
8. We must forgive everyone that offends us as many times as daily from 490 times a day to infinity times (which) is limitless. Matthew 18:22
9. Practically, we can be merciful especially if those who are owing us are poor or having difficulty repaying their debts. We can write off some or all of the debt. 2 Kings 4:1; Matthew 18:27
10. As we forgive as God's children, God heals our broken hearts. Over time, we are able to let go of the pain eventually. Hebrew 10:17; Jer 46: 11a

CONSEQUENCES AND IMPLICATION OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT'S ACTIONS

The consequences of an unforgiving attitude include but not limited to the following:

1. Unforgiveness nullifies/invalidates/repudiates God's forgiveness of our own sins Matthew 6:14-15
2. Unforgiveness puts a person at risk of torment and God's judgement. James 2:13; Matt. 18:33-35
3. Unforgiveness blocks answers to our prayers. Proverb 21 :13
4. Unforgiveness gives the devil a legal access into our lives. 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

CONCLUSION

We must not allow the sin of unforgiveness to take hold of our lives. The ability to forgive is a necessary quality of heavenly bound Christians. It is the nature of God to forgive. His children must possess the same nature. Some offenses are easier to forgive than others, but in all cases, God provides the grace to forgive. May God give us the grace to forgive in Jesus name.