

Just Jesus

Session Two: *Forgiving & Being Forgiven*

Matthew 18:21-35 *The Unmerciful Servant*

1. Who does the king represent in this parable? Who is the servant?
2. The servant owed the king 10,000 talents (\$20-30 million). It was a debt he could not repay. How is our debt to God the same way?
3. The king was not only merciful, he was also *gracious*. How so?
4. Why were the forgiven servant's subsequent actions so despicable?
5. When the king learned of his wicked servant's actions he threw the man in prison and refused to release him until he paid back all he owed. How does this act illustrate these words from the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us as we forgive those who sin against us"?
6. Agree or disagree? We earn forgiveness by forgiving others.
7. So what are the *divine* limits of forgiveness?

When?

How much?

How often?

Luke 17:1-6 *The Mustard Seed Faith*

8. In this section of Scripture Jesus teaches that a Christian restrains, rebukes, and remits (forgives) sin. How often does Jesus say we are to unconditionally forgive sin? (cf. Luke 17:4)
9. How does Jesus' response about the power of a mustard seed-sized faith show that the disciples' words, "Lord increase our faith!", were not so much a heartfelt prayer as a skeptical challenge?
10. Explain: When Jesus said that even a tiny faith, a faith the size of a mustard seed, could do great things like move mulberry trees, he was teaching us how faith is more portal than power, more wall-socket than battery.
11. Jesus closes this section with a curious parable about a master who doesn't thank his slaves for doing what he has commanded them to do. Read Luke 17:7-10 and explain what this parable has to do with the previous section about a mustard seed-sized faith.