

# TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

## PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

PARABLES OF JESUS SERIES (MATTHEW 18:21-35)

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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#### 1. How many times did Peter suggest we forgive people?

- Peter thought seven times might be enough. Why did Peter say seven times? According to the Jewish traditions, you should forgive a person who has sinned against you three times. Peter thought he was being very generous by saying seven.
- Jesus responded by saying you should forgive someone seventy-seven times. When Jesus said this, He didn't mean we should forgive seventy-seven times and then we are off the hook. He was making the point that there is no limit to forgiveness.

#### 2. How many times did Jesus say we are to forgive someone?

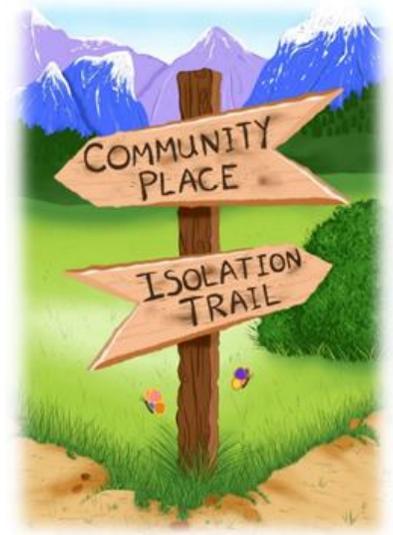
- Seventy-seven times!

#### 3. If we think of this parable in spiritual terms, who does the king represent?

- The king is God.

#### 4. Any guesses on how much money 10,000 bags of gold would be worth today?

- That would be like you or I having to pay back around \$7 billion dollars! Of course, the man was not able to pay it back!



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

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### 5. Do you think the servant would ever in his lifetime be able to pay all this money back?

- No! The servant would have to work for nearly 200,000 years to pay it all back. The servant owed so much money that his debt could never be repaid.

### 6. Who represents the servant who owes the king a large debt?

- We are the servants who owe God a big debt. Now, of course, we haven't borrowed money from God. The debt we owe God is spiritual.
- **Colossians 2:13-14** tells us, *"You were spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were not free from the power of your sinful self. But God gave you a new life together with Christ. He forgave all our sins. Because we broke God's laws, we owed a debt – a debt that listed all the rules we failed to follow. But God forgave us of that debt. He took it away and nailed it to the cross."*

### 7. How should this make us feel?

- We should be grateful, and very, very happy!

### 8. How do you think the servant who owed much should have felt?

- He should be grateful and very, very happy, too. Sadly, he was not grateful, and went out and found one of the other servants who owed him 100 silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he said.
- The other servant fell on his knees. 'Give me time,' he begged him. 'I'll pay it back.'
- But the first servant refused. Instead, he went and had the man thrown into prison. The man would be held there until he could pay back what he owed. The other servants saw what had happened and were very angry. They went and told their master everything that had happened.

### 9. Who in the story represents the servant who owed the small debt?

- This is anyone who owes us anything. It doesn't just mean people who owe us money. It also includes the person who did something wrong or hurtful to us, and they owe us an apology.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

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### 10. Is it easy to forgive people who do wrong to us?

- No, it is not. We need Jesus to help us forgive.
- Through this parable, Jesus reminds us that because He has forgiven us of many sins, we are to do the same to those around us and need to consistently exhibit an attitude of forgiveness. It is not always easy, but it is what God asks us to do.

## PERSONAL QUESTIONS

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1. Is there someone in your life who you have been unable to forgive?

2. Are you able to offer that person forgiveness?

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