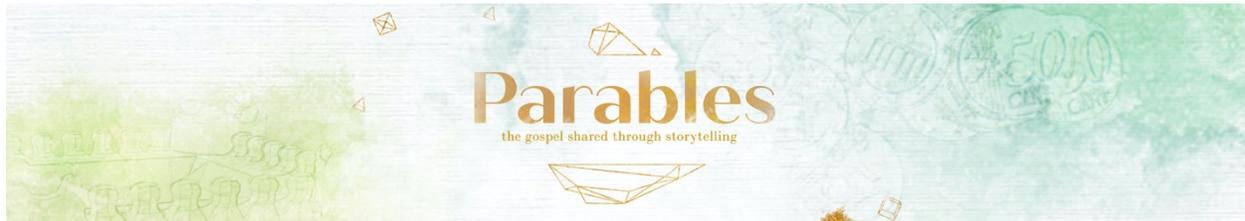


July 18th, 2021



The Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:23-35

Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. **24** When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. **25** And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. **26** So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' **27** And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. **28** But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' **29** So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' **30** He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. **31** When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. **32** Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33** And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' **34** And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. **35** So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.

Three categories of parables: Sayings, Similitudes, and Stories.

Example Saying Parable: **Matthew 13:57** - A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home.

Example Similitude Parable: **Matthew 5:14-16** - "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 18:21-22 - "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" "Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

How am I supposed to do this?

How much did he owe?

- The servant owed the king “ten thousand talents”
- The fellow servant owed the first servant “100 denarii”
- One denarius = one day’s wage for the common working man
- Today - $\$7.25 \times 8 = \58
- 100 denarii = \$5,800 **(a significant amount)**
- One talent = 6,000 denarii = \$348,000
- 10,000 talents = \$3,480,000,000

Our debt (our sin) is immeasurable. It is impossible to pay back. So many people struggle to understand the weight of their sin.

Sin isn’t measured simply by what the act is, it’s measured also by WHO the act is committed against.

Sin is so terribly evil because it is committed against an infinitely majestic, holy, righteous God.

We don’t understand the severity of our sin, because we don’t understand the majesty of our God.

God has already paid the price for your sin. The question is, **How will you respond?**

Matthew 18:34-35 - In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. **35** “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.

Matthew 6:12 - Forgive us our debts even as we forgive our debtors...

14-15 - For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15** But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

1 John 2:3-6 - We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. **4** Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. **5** But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: **6** Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

John is NOT saying that in order to be saved, you must obey him first. He’s saying the evidence of someone knowing Jesus is that they walk in obedience. We can’t claim Jesus, expect to have eternal life, and live in sin.

Do you need to forgive someone today?

You can forgive, because God has forgiven you, which is an absolute miracle.