

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

James 1:1-12

THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

Matthew 18:21-35

Main Thought: The parable of the unmerciful servant teaches us that forgiveness is an important characteristic of those who are part of the kingdom of heaven.

1. THE _____ OF THE PARABLE.
2. THE _____ OF THE PARABLE.
 - 1) The king is _____.
 - 2) The first servant represents _____.
 - 3) The big debt is what we _____ God due to our _____.
 - 4) The second servant – anybody who has _____ us.
 - 5) The small debt – sin _____ against us by others.
 - 6) Since God has _____ us we should _____ others.
3. LESSONS WE CAN LEARN ABOUT _____.
 - 1) When we need _____
 - (1) Meet _____ (Mt. 5:24)
 - (2) Admit your _____ specifically.
 - (3) _____ and _____ your behavior.
 - (4) _____ the consequences.
 - (5) Ask for _____.
 - 2) When we need to _____
 - (1) Take the _____.
 - (2) Forgiveness is a _____ not a _____.
 - (3) Forgiveness is not _____.
 - (4) Forgiveness is _____.
 - (5) Forgiveness is not _____.
 - (6) Not forgiving _____ us not the other person.
 - (7) _____ and _____ forgiveness.
 - (8) Forgiveness doesn't always _____ consequences

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read Matthew 18:21-35.

2. What question from Peter prompted Jesus to tell this parable? What answer did Jesus give to Peter's question? Do you think Jesus intended to put a limit on the number of times we should forgive someone?

3. Below is a list of the main elements of the parable. Who or what do you think they represent?

- 1) The King
- 2) The servant with a large debt
- 3) The large debt
- 4) The servant with a small debt
- 5) The small debt

4. What action does the king take initially with the servant who owed him a large debt? How does this represent God's actions toward us?

5. What action does the servant with the large debt which has been forgiven take toward the servant who owed him a small debt?

6. Why is there such a contrast in the amounts of money involved in the two debts?

7. Why were the other servants so distressed by the action of the servant who had been forgiven the large debt and who did they tell?

8. How did the master respond to these actions by the servant who had been forgiven a large debt? Why?

9. What lesson are we supposed to learn from the parable? What does it teach us about the character of those who are part of the kingdom of heaven?

10. What should we make of verses 34-35? Is God merciful or not?

11. What is it that you struggle with when it comes to forgiveness? What will you do to grow in this area of forgiveness and showing mercy?