

# ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

## *Bible Study Outline*

**TOPIC:** The Unforgiving Servant

**TEXT:** *Matthew 18:15, 21-35*

**Instructions:** *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction:** It seems to be true (at a psychological level anyway) that a critical, unforgiving person tends also to be a guilt-prone person. And vice versa. People who struggle with guilt feelings are usually critical of others and tend to harbor resentment. In this parable Jesus teaches the consequences of unforgiveness with brutal clarity. Unforgiveness in someone who has never experienced God's forgiveness may be understandable. But what can we say about an unforgiving Christian?

### **Discussion questions:**

1. Why do you think people who struggle with guilt are usually critical and resentful of others?
2. From the scripture read, what is the ultimate goal we should have when we approach a brother or sister who has sinned against us or offended us in somehow? Why could this be a difficult thing to do for many? Explain.
3. In verse 21, do you think Peter's problem is actual or merely theoretical? And/or, what view of forgiveness, does Peter's question and Jesus' response reveal? Explain what you perceived to be Jesus' point?
4. Ten thousand talents (v. 24) was equal to several million dollars. The king's intended action (v. 25) represented contemporary justice. If you were the man, how would you have felt before and after the king canceled your debt (vs. 25-27)? Explain.

5. How real to us should be our indebtedness to the man who made it possible for us to escape from justice? Why is it sometimes difficult for us to hold up the line for others?

6. A hundred denarii (v. 28) is a trivial amount compared to ten thousand talents. What lesson do you think Christ intends by using such amounts? How should the comparison of the two sums affect our view of the sins of others?

7. Think of someone you have had difficulty forgiving. How would it help to compare their actions to what God has forgiven you for? And what can we conclude about those who profess the faith in God yet do not forgive others?

8. What happens to our spiritual freedom and our fellowship with God when we are critical and not letting go the sin of others or being unforgiving (vs. 34-35)?

9. What do we need or have to do to be able to forgive those who have hurt or mistreated us?