

WE MUST SAY, "I FORGIVE YOU"

Jesus told this story. Once there was a man who had borrowed a lot of money from the king. The king came to him one day and said, "Give me my money back." The man begged, "Please, give me more time and I will repay you the money." The king had mercy on him and said, "Go now, I will forgive you the money you owe me."

The man then found his friend. The friend had borrowed money from the man. The man said, "Give me my money back." The friend begged, "Please give me more time and I will repay you the money." Instead of having mercy, the man had his friend thrown into jail because he couldn't repay him.

Some people saw what had happened, and told the king. The king was angry. "I had mercy on you," said the king to the man, "Why didn't you follow my example and have mercy on your friend?" The king had the man thrown into jail.

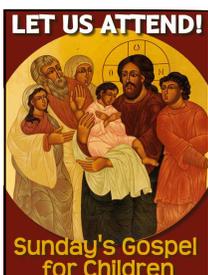
After Jesus told the story he said, "Learn this, my heavenly father will forgive what you do wrong, but only if you forgive those who have hurt you."



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In the story, there is a man who owed money to a king. He didn't have the money to give back to the king. What did he say to the king?
2. Did the king get mad, or did he forgive the man?
3. The man found a friend who owed him money. The friend didn't have money to repay the man. What did the man say to the friend?
4. Did the man forgive him? What did he do instead?
5. When the king found out about the man, he said, "Why did you not follow my example?" He had the man thrown in jail.
6. Jesus will forgive what we do wrong, but we must forgive others. We must say, "I forgive you."



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Pre-12

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One day, our Lord Jesus Christ told this parable. (A parable is a story with a special meaning.)

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wanted to settle things up with his servants. One servant was brought to him. This man owed the king lots of money, but could not pay it. The king said that the man, his wife and children, and all that they had, needed to be sold to pay back what he owed.

"But the servant fell to his knees and begged the king, 'Be patient! I will pay back everything!'"

"The king felt sorry for the man and let him go. He even said the man didn't have to pay back the money.

"When the servant left there, he saw another servant. This man owed him a few coins. The first servant grabbed the second one by the throat and said, 'Pay me what you owe me!'

"The second servant begged, 'Be patient with me. I will pay you!' But the first servant threw the second one in jail until he could pay his debt.

"All the other servants saw what happened and told the king. The king called in his servant. He said, 'You are bad! I forgave you your debt when you asked me to. You should have had mercy on your friend.' And he sent the servant to jail until he could pay what he owed."

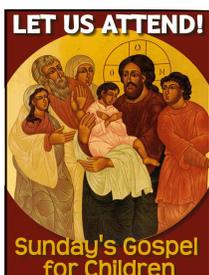
Our Lord Jesus said that it is the same for us. God has forgiven all our many sins, and because of that, we must forgive those around us for their few sins.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In the story, there is a man who owed money to a king. He didn't have the money to give back to the king. What did he say to the king?
2. Did the king get mad, or did he have mercy on the man?
3. When do you hear the word "mercy" in church? We are asking God to forgive us and be kind to us.
5. The man found a friend who owed him money. The friend didn't have the money to give to the man. What did the friend say to the man?
6. Did the man have mercy on his friend?
7. The king was mad when he heard the news. Who was he mad at?
8. Our father in heaven is like the king. He will forgive us if we forgive those who hurt us. Who have you forgiven?



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WE MUST FORGIVE

The Lord spoke this parable, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

“But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt.

“When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord sum-

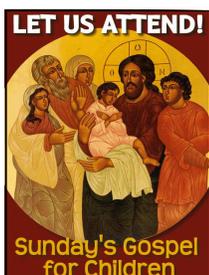
moned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”



Image courtesy of Teaching Pics

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What is a debt? What is a loan?
2. Have you ever loaned anything to someone? What? What do you hope a person will do when you loan something to them? What might happen?
3. How would you feel if someone didn't return something you loaned to them?
4. How does the king in this gospel react when this happens to him? What does the king do after the servant begs him for patience?
5. What does the servant do when another servant can not pay his debt?
6. Which person in this Gospel does God want us to be like? What do you think about that?



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WE MUST FORGIVE

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Servant 1, Servant 2, Master

Narrator: The Lord spoke this parable,

Jesus: The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him,

Servant 1: Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.

Jesus: And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said,

Servant 1: Pay what you owe.

Jesus: So his fellow servant fell down and besought him,

Servant 2: Have patience with me, and I will pay you.

Jesus: He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt.

Jesus: When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had

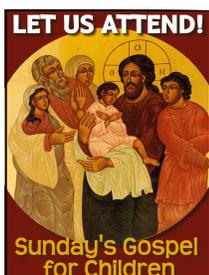
taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him,

Master: You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?

Jesus: And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.



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GOD WILL, IF WE WILL

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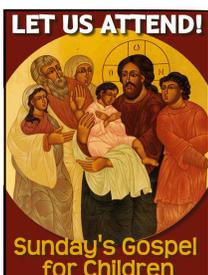
pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt.

“When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on

you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What gifts has God given to you? For example, has God given you a voice?
2. What debt do you think you might owe God for that gift?
3. How can you pay that debt? For example, how can you give your voice back to God?
4. Do you think we always return God’s gifts to him? For example, do you always offer your voice back to God?
5. How does the king in this gospel initially respond when the slave cannot repay his debt?
6. What does this tell us about how God responds to our inability to always offer his gifts back to him?
7. What changes the king’s mind?
8. What does this suggest about what we can do to receive God’s mercy?
9. What can you do this week to offer one of God’s gifts back to him?
10. What can you do this week to ask him to forgive you for not returning all of his gifts?



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“When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow

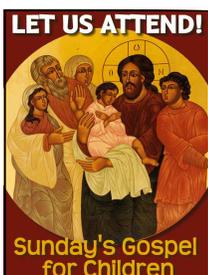


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servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

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9. What can you do this week to offer one of God’s gifts back to him?
10. What can you do this week to ask him to forgive you for not returning all of his gifts?
11. What does the photo have to do with the story?



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