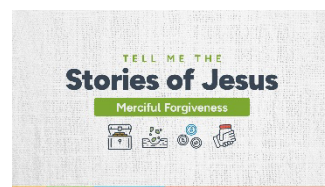


TELL ME THE STORIES OF JESUS

Merciful Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Pastor Chris Lenhart - 10/26/25



Opening Thought Question:

How should those seeking to faithfully follow Jesus, understand and practice forgiveness?

(21-22) The Question of Limits

(23-34) Parable of Two Debts

(23-27) Immeasurable meets Unfathomable

(28-30) Measurable meets Failure

(31-35) A Betrayal of Identity

A Disciple's Guide to Forgiveness

- 1) Live h_____ with a clear recognition of our own forgiven d_____.
- 2) Release our l_____ of offenses.
- 3) Take i_____ of our h_____.
- 4) Trust God with j_____.

Further Study

Matt. 18

Amos 1:3-13
Gen. 4:24

Matt. 6:9-13
Lk. 11:2-4

1 Tim. 1:15-16
1 Cor. 13:5
Eph. 4:31-32
Rom. 12:19-21

TELL ME THE STORIES OF JESUS Merciful Forgiveness Next Steps: Home-Group Study and/or Personal Discipleship Guide	Matt. 18:21-35
Get together as a family or with a friend or group of friends this week! Start with <u>Prayer</u> -ask Jesus to guide our time together. Review prayer requests. <u>Read the Text</u> – Matt. 18:21-35 <u>Questions for Reflection and Discussion:</u> 1. What is the question asked to Jesus that prompts his telling of this parable? (vs. 21-22) 2. Compare how the debt of the first servant mirrors our own debt of sin. In what ways are they similar? How does this parable take shape when we put ourselves in the shoes of the first servant in the parable? 3. Why is forgiveness of debt sometimes a contentious issue for followers of Jesus to discern and discuss together? 4. Thinking about how Jesus teaches his followers to pray, where can we hear tones and echoes of the Lord's prayer in this parable? 5. What does the end of this parable suggest awaits those who refuse or withhold forgiveness? How is our willingness to forgive others evidence of Christ's transformative work, and the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence in our lives? 6. Why is it often hard to forgive? <u>Questions guiding Spiritual Formation & Application:</u> 1. How does this text invite us to grow in a greater love for God? 2. What lessons within this text move us towards growing in our love for one another? 3. What principles could be applied to our family life, careers, communities, or congregational life? 4. Consider how Jesus could use our application of the principles in this text to draw those that do not know him, unto himself? 5. Who is currently in our lives that needs an invitation to meet Jesus or be part of a kind and gracious Christian community?	<u>Further Study</u> Matt. 18 Amos 1:3-13 Gen. 4:24 Matt. 6:9-13 Lk. 11:2-4 1 Tim. 1:15-16 1 Cor. 13:5 Eph. 4:31-32 Rom. 12:19-21 <u>Prayer Requests</u> Family Church Community Career & Friends Other