

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

March 15, 2026

Matthew 18:23, *“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.”*

Romans 6:12-13, *“Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”*

Titus 2:14, *“Jesus gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”*

2 Corinthians 5:10, *“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”*

Matthew 25:23, *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”*

Matthew 18:24-25, *“When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.”*

Matthew 6:12, *“To forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”*

Matthew 18:26-27, *“So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ ²⁷ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.”*

Ephesians 4:31-32, *“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”*

The King Was Merciful in Two Ways:

1. The King Released the Servant

2. The King Forgave Him All the Debt

Ephesians 2:4, *“God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.”*

Ephesians 2:7, *“Show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”*

Matthew 18:28-30, *“But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’²⁹ So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’³⁰ But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.”*

Colossians 3:9, *“Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices.”*

Isaiah 59:1-2, *“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear.² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”*

Romans 5:8-10, *“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Christ.¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”*

Matthew 18:31-35, *“So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.³² Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.³³ Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’³⁴ And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.³⁵ My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”*

Matthew 6:14, *“If you forgive others for their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”*

Matthew 5:9, *“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God.”*