

STORIES

OF

THE



JESUS

would place a parable alongside
a spiritual truth to cause you to reflect



**A PARABLE IS LIKE A WINDOW, MIRROR,
AND A DOORWAY**

- it gives us a glimpse into what God's kingdom is like
- it reflects something about us
- it invites us into transformation



ONE OF JESUS'
MOST CHALLENGING PARABLES:
A PARABLE ABOUT FORGIVENESS

FORGIVENESS

is one of the essentials of
the Christian life



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²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

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MATTHEW 18:21-22

FORGIVENESS

DOESN'T
MEAN

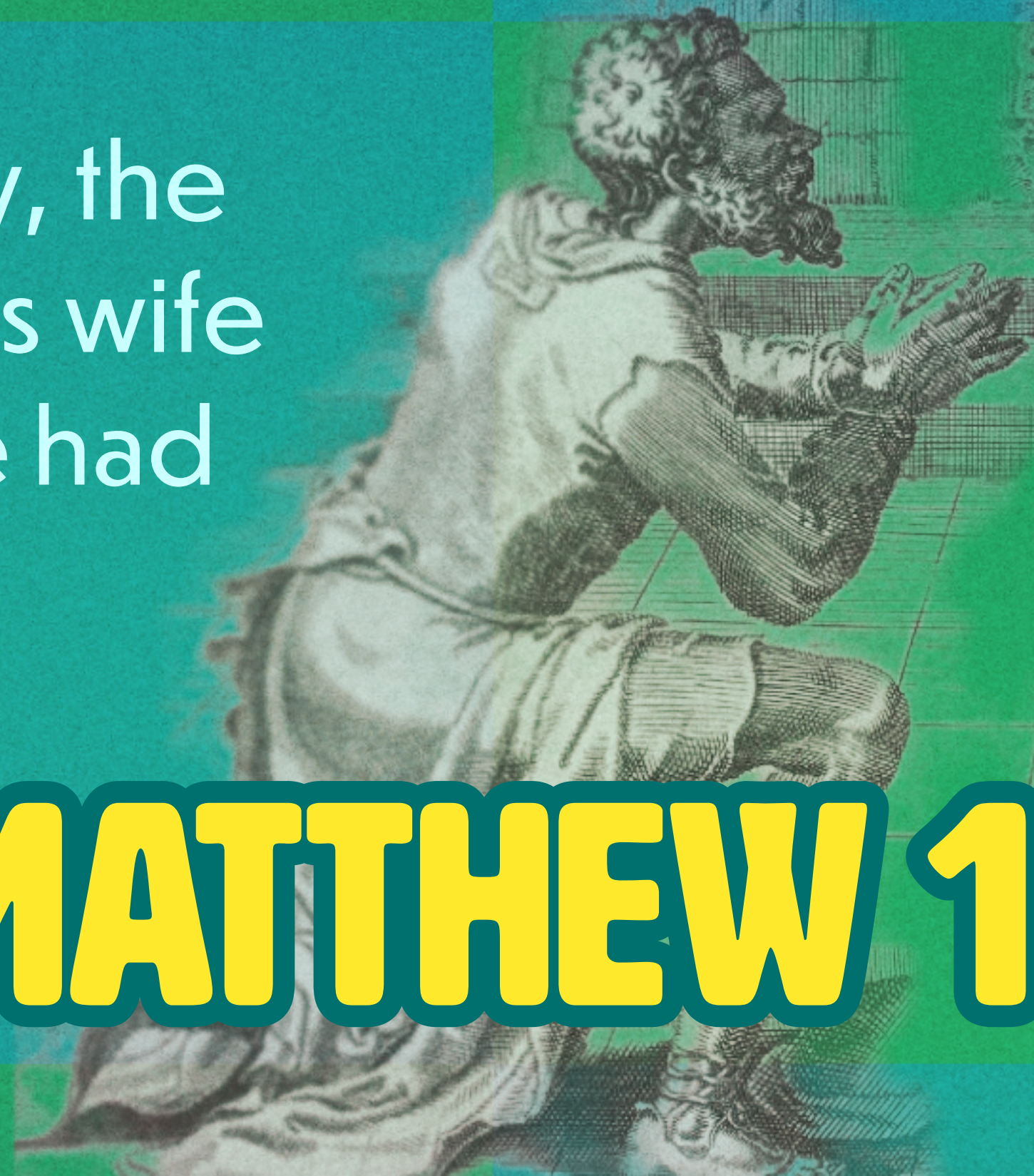
- ✗ trust is instantly restored
- ✗ there are no boundaries
- ✗ there are not consequences
- ✗ reconciliation takes place

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him.

²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

MATTHEW 18:23-25



²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

MATTHEW 18:26-27



as Jesus' audience is hearing this story,

THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR:

this man has absolutely no hope
of paying what he owes





²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

MATTHEW 18:28



²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

MATTHEW 18:29-30

FORGIVENESS

IS HARD

BECAUSE IT COSTS SOMETHING

when you forgive, you are choosing to absorb the wrong

³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'

MATTHEW 18:31-33



³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

MATTHEW 18:34-35



THIS IS A DIFFICULT SAYING OF JESUS HE'S WARNING US:

- ✓ **FIRST**, unforgiveness leads to a tortured heart
- ✓ **SECOND**, persistent unforgiveness may reveal that a person has never truly understood the mercy and grace of God

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. *Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

COLOSSIANS 3:12-13

FORGIVENESS

IS BOTH AN **EVENT** AND A **PROCESS**

THE **EVENT** is the decision to forgive

THE **PROCESS** is learning to walk in that forgiveness over time

WHEN YOU **FORGIVE** SOMEONE

YOU'RE MAKING SEVERAL COMMITMENTS:

FIRST, you promise not to bring the offense up to the offender

SECOND, you promise not to bring the offense up to others

THIRD, you promise not to continually bring the offense up to yourself