

Kingdom of Heaven week 3

Matthew 13:11-12, 16 (NLT) [Jesus] replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them... But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor: Matthew 18:21-35

Seventy times seven is not a _____.

Micah 7:19 (NLT) Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!

What have we _____ from the Heavenly Father?

Romans 6:23 (NLT) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Comparison is presented as a _____ factor.

Matthew 18:33a (NLT) ‘Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’

A change of _____ was expected by the king.

Matthew 18:35 (NLT) “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Lessons from this Parable

Jesus uses _____ to teach a life lesson about forgiveness.

Matthew 6:24 (NLT) “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

We learn to give by _____.

1 John 4:18-19 (NLT) Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. We love each other because He loved us first.

Forgiveness _____ our faith journey.

Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT) “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

“Not forgiving someone is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.”

~ unknown

Final Thought: Forgiveness and comparison both have the _____ to help us grow and transform or to get stuck and stagnant. Let’s choose to journey forward together!

Kingdom of Heaven week 3 Discussion Questions

Comparison, though normally seen as negative, is presented in a positive way in this parable. How have you dealt with comparison in

your life? Has it been positive or negative? Explain. “Negative comparison is selfish. Positive comparison is about motivation to help others.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

Has money effected your faith? Why or why not? Despite this parable isn't really about money, what money lessons can you learn from it? Why do you think Jesus uses money to teach a lesson about forgiveness?

Read the following verses about forgiveness: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 103:8-12, Micah 7:19, Hebrews 8:12. How do these verses compare to Matthew 6:14-15 and this parable (Matthew 18:35)? How can they all be true? Is there someone that you need to forgive to journey forward in your faith?

Look at Matthew 18 to 19:15; this section is “book ended” with references to children (18:2 and 19:14). Is this significant? Why or why not? Now look at all the different stories in this section, how are they connected? Explain. How can you summarize this entire section with just a few words? How can this phrase impact your faith journey?