

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (*Matthew 18: 21-35*)

A straight-forward presentation of this parable put into simple English, suitable for children to perform – our Sunday School did it as a puppet show! Jesus wants us to forgive others in the same way as he forgives us: as many times as it takes.

Scene 1: Peter and Jesus talking

Peter: Jesus?

Jesus: Yes Peter?

Peter: When one of my friends is really mean to me, how many times do I have to forgive them? Seven times?

Jesus: No, more than that! You have to forgive them as often as they hurt you, even if that means hundreds of times, because that is how many times God forgives us when we do things wrong.

(exit Peter and Jesus)

Scene 2: The King and the Servant

King: Today is the day when everybody has to pay the money they owe to me back! How much do you owe me?

Servant: Only a few million pounds!

King: What!!! That's loads of money, and I want it back right now!

Servant: I'm really sorry, but I haven't got it! I can't pay you back!

King: That's terrible! You have to sell your house, and your business, everything you own, and your family, to try and raise some money to give me!

Servant: I just need more time! I promise I'll pay you back!

King: It's such a large amount, I don't see how you'll ever be able to pay it back. Hmmm... I think I will cancel your debt completely... Yes, your debt is cancelled, you're free to go!

Servant: Really?! That's amazing! Thank you! Thank you so much!

(exit King)

Scene 3: The Servant and the Other Servant

(Other Servant appears)

Servant: You!

Other Servant: Who me?

Servant: Yes you! You owe me £5! Give it to me now! *(hitting him)* Right now!

Other Servant: I'm really sorry, but I haven't got it! I can't pay you back! I just need more time! I promise I'll pay you back!

Servant: No! You can't have more time! I'm going to get you put in prison until you pay me back my £5! *(pushing Other Servant)*

(exit Other Servant)

Scene 4: the King and the Servant, Again

(enter King)

King: You!

Servant: Who me?

King: Yes you! I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to, and now you won't even cancel a debt of £5! You wicked servant! You had your chance to do the right thing and you blew it. Now I'm going to have you thrown into prison!

(exit King and Servant)

Scene 5: Jesus again

Jesus: Even though you do lots of things wrong, God forgives you. God wants you to pass on that forgiveness to others, and always forgive them when they do something wrong.