

THE PARABOLIC TEACHING ABOUT CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Lesson 9: The Unforgiving Servant

15-Point Chronological Discussion Outline & Worksheet • Dr. Dallas Willard Lecture Series (1983)

1. Mercy as the Heart of the Kingdom

[Audio ~00:00 – 03:45]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:21–23; James 2:13

Dallas Willard Insight: The primary air and operational rule of God's Kingdom is radical, overflowing mercy and forgiveness.

Discussion Question: Why is radical mercy and forgiveness the defining atmosphere of life in the Kingdom of God?

My Notes & Answer:

2. Peter's Question on Forgiveness Limits

[Audio ~03:45 – 07:15]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:21; Genesis 4:24

Dallas Willard Insight: Peter thought forgiving seven times was generous, but legalistic calculations miss the infinite nature of grace.

Discussion Question: How does setting numerical limits on forgiveness reveal a legalistic mindset rather than a Kingdom heart?

My Notes & Answer:

3. Seventy Times Seven (Unlimited Grace)

[Audio ~07:15 – 10:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:22; Luke 17:3–4

Dallas Willard Insight: Jesus commands forgiveness seventy times seven, meaning forgiveness must become an unlimited, habituated heart posture.

Discussion Question: What does Jesus' command to forgive seventy times seven require regarding our ongoing heart attitude?

My Notes & Answer:

4. The Astronomical Debt of Ten Thousand Talents

[Audio ~10:30 – 14:00]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:24–25; Psalm 130:3–4

Dallas Willard Insight: Ten thousand talents represented an unpayable fortune, symbolizing humanity's infinite moral debt to God.

Discussion Question: How does the unpayable debt of ten thousand talents reflect our absolute inability to save ourselves?

My Notes & Answer:

5. Pleading for Time vs. Complete Cancellation

[Audio ~14:00 – 17:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:26–27; Psalm 103:10–12

Dallas Willard Insight: The servant begged for time to pay, but the king moved with compassion and canceled the entire debt freely.

Discussion Question: Why does God respond to our desperate cries with total debt cancellation rather than extended probation?

My Notes & Answer:

6. The Fellow Servant's Petty Debt

[Audio ~17:30 – 21:00]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:28; Micah 7:18–19

Dallas Willard Insight: The forgiven servant grabbed a colleague who owed a hundred denarii, demanding immediate payment and choking him.

Discussion Question: How does our demand for immediate repayment from others look when compared to God's forgiveness of us?

My Notes & Answer:

7. The Natural Human Impulse to 'Get Even'

[Audio ~21:00 – 24:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:29–30; Romans 12:19

Dallas Willard Insight: Human nature craves balancing accounts and getting even, locking people into destructive cycles of resentment.

Discussion Question: Why is the natural human urge to 'get even' so destructive to personal peace and relationships?

My Notes & Answer:

8. Forward-Giving vs. Backward-Demanding

[Audio ~24:30 – 28:00]

Scripture Focus: Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13

Dallas Willard Insight: Kingdom life shifts us from backward-demanding debt collection to forward-giving grace received from God.

Discussion Question: How does shifting from backward debt-collecting to forward grace-giving liberate our emotional life?

My Notes & Answer:

9. Grieving the Fellow Servants

[Audio ~28:00 – 31:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:31; 1 Corinthians 12:26

Dallas Willard Insight: Observing an unmerciful spirit in the community deeply grieves fellow believers and disrupts Kingdom unity.

Discussion Question: Why does an unforgiving spirit in a christian community cause such deep sorrow and harm?

My Notes & Answer:

10. Summoned and Condemned as Wicked

[\[Audio ~31:30 – 35:00\]](#)

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:32–33; Luke 6:35–36

Dallas Willard Insight: The king called him a 'wicked slave' because receiving immense mercy obligates a person to extend mercy.

Discussion Question: Why does refusing to extend mercy to others make a person wicked in God's eyes?

My Notes & Answer:

11. Delivered to the Torturers

[\[Audio ~35:00 – 38:30\]](#)

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:34; Mark 11:25–26

Dallas Willard Insight: Unforgiveness hands a person over to inner torturers—bitterness, anxiety, and spiritual torment—until debt is released.

Discussion Question: How does holding grudges hand our minds over to the torturers of bitterness and inner turmoil?

My Notes & Answer:

12. Forgiving From the Heart

[\[Audio ~38:30 – 42:00\]](#)

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:35; Mark 11:25

Dallas Willard Insight: Forgiveness cannot be superficial lip-service; it must be an internal release of the debt from the heart.

Discussion Question: What is required to move from mere spoken words of forgiveness to forgiving someone genuinely from the heart?

My Notes & Answer:

13. Receiving Mercy to Release Mercy

[Audio ~42:00 – 45:15]

Scripture Focus: 1 John 4:10–11; 2 Cor. 5:18–19

Dallas Willard Insight: We do not manufacture forgiveness through willpower; we pass along the active divine mercy we constantly receive.

Discussion Question: How does continually experiencing God's fresh mercy enable us to release others from their offenses?

My Notes & Answer:

14. Embracing Childlike Humility

[Audio ~45:15 – 47:30]

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:1–4; Mark 10:15

Dallas Willard Insight: Childlike humility frees us from self-important dignity, making it easy to drop offenses and live in peace.

Discussion Question: How does cultivating childlike humility protect us from taking personal offense at others' actions?

My Notes & Answer:

15. Living in the Flow of Kingdom Peace

[Audio ~47:30 – 50:00]

Scripture Focus: Colossians 3:15; Philippians 4:7

Dallas Willard Insight: Releasing all debts allows the peace of God to rule our hearts, establishing true Kingdom reconciliation.

Discussion Question: What freedom and peace do we enter when we permanently release all debts against us?

My Notes & Answer:
