

## **The Parables of Jesus (3): The Forgiveness Factor Matthew 18:21-35**

### **I. The Occasion of the Parable**

- A. Jesus rebuked His disciples for their pride and desire for worldly greatness and instructed them about humility (Matthew 18:1-20).
- B. Peter asked: "Is forgiveness limited?" (Matthew 18:21)

### **II. The Key Terms of the Parable**

- A. Forgiveness is giving up resentment against someone and surrendering one's right to retaliate, no matter what the other person did.
- B. Unforgiveness is the deliberate, willful refusal to give up resentment or an insistence that someone pays for a wrong that was committed.

### **III. The Lessons of the Parable**

- A. Forgiveness is always costly to the person who is doing the forgiving, but free to the person who receives it (v.24; 1 Peter 1:18-19).
- B. Our duty to forgive others depends on recalling the pardon we have received from God (v.33; Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:13).
- C. You will never live freely or fully if you ignore the sin of unforgiveness (v.35; Matthew 6:12, 14-15; Mark 11:25-26; James 2:13).