

# HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

April 30/31, 2022  
Matthew 18: 21-35

Sermon by Pastor Josiah Nordgren  
Sermon Based by Loke Paz  
Family Moment by Andrea Manual

## FAMILY MOMENT

- Read The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant together. (Matthew 18:21-35)
- Explain that parables are stories that Jesus told to teach us important lessons about the Kingdom of Heaven. Parables can remind us that we represent the Kingdom of Heaven, and we represent Jesus everywhere we go.
- Now think back to the conversation that takes place just before this parable, when Peter asks Jesus how many times he is supposed to forgive someone who sins against him. Peter probably thought he was being very generous by saying he could forgive someone seven times. Most people in Jesus' time thought it was enough to forgive someone three times.
- Ask your kid if they remember Jesus' response to Peter? (some versions say 77 times and others versions say 70 x 7) If your kids are old enough, ask them to do the math.
- For fun, ask your kids to come up with something they THINK they can do 77 times in a row – sit ups, jumping jacks, bounce a ball, etc. Let them try. Do it with them! Whether they succeed at it or not, talk about how difficult it was or how, after a while, they no longer wanted to finish the task. Doing something that many times in a row can be challenging and exhausting.
- Explain that Jesus doesn't literally want us to forgive 77 or 490 times. Ask, why do you think Jesus gave such a big number?
- He wanted to teach us that we should forgive endlessly. We must always forgive, and keep forgiving, even if it's more than 490 times!
- He also wanted to show us that we cannot forgive endlessly on our own. We need Jesus to help us forgive! It's not always easy to forgive people, that's why we need Jesus to help us.
- Pray together. Thank God for His forgiveness. Ask Him to help you and your family to forgive others this week.

### THINK ABOUT IT

### TALK ABOUT IT

### LIVE IT

## 'OHANA GROUP

This past weekend, we jumped into Matthew 18 and started with verses 21 and 22. "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?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" Pastor Josiah noted here that forgiveness isn't about mathematics or counting up wrongs. Forgiveness is foundational to our faith and it defines who we are as Christians.

1. Which do you struggle with more: forgiving others or yourself? Both? Why?
2. What does "forgiveness is foundational" mean to you? How should this affect your walk with GOD? Your relations with others?

Pastor Josiah moved on through verses 23-25. A servant owed ten thousand bags of gold to his master and could not pay the debt; therefore, the master demanded that he, his wife, children and all that he had should be sold in order to pay the debt.

- Have you ever seen your own unforgiveness affect others around you?

Pastor Josiah then revealed that we are the servant. "We accrued a massive debt of sin, an unfathomable amount that we could never pay."

BUT . . . the Good News is that ". . . God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 NIV

The parable continues in verse 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." In Verses 29-30 we see the exact opposite of how the master treated the forgiven servant: instead of finding pity on his fellow servant, the wicked servant who was forgiven first, could not do the same. When his master learned of this, he "handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed."

- Can you think of a situation in which you were convicted of being forgiven by GOD but could not do the same for another? Share the freedom you felt when you finally gave forgiveness.

Pastor Josiah said, "Unforgiveness does not stem from what others have done to me but rather from a misunderstanding of what JESUS has done for me."

- Now that we know and understand the seriousness of how the master viewed the unforgiving servant, how should we respond to those who cause us offense?

During your personal time with GOD, reflect on this passage and allow GOD to expose any evil which could be hiding within your heart such as unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, offense, etc. Next, choose to be set free and share your experience with someone else. It all begins by remembering what JESUS has done for you!