

A scroll of aged, yellowish-brown parchment with a dark brown border. The text 'PARABLES OF JESUS' is written in a bold, white, serif font with a black drop shadow, centered on the scroll. The scroll is unrolled, showing the texture of the parchment and the dark brown binding on the left and right sides.

# PARABLES OF JESUS

A scroll of aged parchment with a dark brown border and a lighter tan center. The text is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The parchment has a slightly textured appearance with some creases and a slightly irregular edge.

# **Matthew 18:21-35**



# THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

The image depicts a scroll of aged, yellowish-brown parchment. The parchment is unrolled, showing a textured surface with some creases and discoloration. At the top, the title "THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT" is written in a bold, white, serif font with a black outline. The scroll is held in place by two dark brown, cylindrical objects, likely representing the ends of the scroll or decorative elements. The background is a light, neutral color.

# **THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT**

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- Matthew 18:21

# THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

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- Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”  
- Matthew 18:21
- In the context the Lord has been teaching about church discipline (Matthew 18:15-20).



# **THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT**

- **With this question, Peter probably thought that he was going the “extra mile.”**
- **Many Jewish rabbis taught to forgive three times, but no more!**
- **In Peter’s mind, his righteousness was exceeding that of the scribes and Pharisees.**
- **He must have been shocked to hear the Lord’s response.**

# THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

- Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”  
– Matthew 18:22
- These numbers are not meant to be taken literal. Jesus is using them to teach unlimited forgiveness.
- To drive this point home, Jesus teaches the parable found in verses 23-35.



# THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

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# THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

- **“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.” (vs. 23)**
- **One of the slaves owed him ten thousand talents (vs. 24). That is a lot of money!**
- **That would be equivalent to millions of dollars today. This man could not repay this debt if he worked every day of his life, for the rest of his life!**



# THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

- “But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.” (vs. 25)
- The slave begged for mercy (vs. 26).
- The king had compassion and forgave him. He released him from the debt (vs. 27).

# THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

- After receiving the king's forgiveness, the slave went and found a fellow slave who owed him a hundred denarii (vs. 28).
- The fellow slave begged for patience and mercy (vs. 29).
- The unmerciful slave refused to show mercy. He beat, choked, and threw the man in jail.



# THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

- Other slaves went and reported the events to the king (vs. 31).
- The king was very angry and disappointed with the news (vss. 32-34).
- The king summoned the unmerciful slave and asked him about his actions

# THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

- The king was no longer willing to extend to him forgiveness.
- Instead, the king would give the servant what he deserved. He would not extend to the servant what he was unwilling to extend to another.



# THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

- We owe a huge debt to God!

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- God is merciful!



# **THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT**

- **We owe a huge debt to God!**
- **God is merciful!**
- **In order to receive God's forgiveness, we must first be willing to forgive others!**

A scroll of aged parchment with a dark brown border. The parchment is light brown with some creases and a slightly textured appearance. The text "PARABLES OF JESUS" is written in a white, bold, serif font with a black outline, centered on the scroll.

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