

Seed Delivery: Longsuffering (Patience) III: Forgiveness

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY: THE MERCILESS SERVANT (MATTHEW 18:21-35)

1. Who was he?

- Debtor to a king
- Creditor to a colleague

2. Why was he important?

- Used in one of Jesus’ many parables to present an important principle.

3. What were his circumstances?

- Owed the king a huge debt of 10,000 talents.

Amplified:	New Living Translation:	The Message:
\$10,000,000	“millions of dollars”	\$100,000

- Someone else—another servant--owed him 100 denarii (1 denarius ≈ 1 day’s wages).

Amplified:	New Living Translation:	The Message:
\$20	“a few thousand dollars”	\$10

4. Did he live out this characteristic? Why does he matter?

- Whereas the king absolved him totally of his debt, the servant refused to extend the same to his fellow attendant, even though the pleas were the same.

- Both the servant and his colleague begged their creditor to have “patience”/to show “longsuffering” (G3114 μακροθυμέω).
- Both the king and the servant had a “right” to collect on what was owed or exact some sort of restitution for the outstanding debt.
 - But a king may be the law of the land. The servant’s authority came from what the king had allowed.
- G863 ἀφίημι *aphiēmi* (ä-fē'-ā-mē) – send forth (cry, **forgive**, forsake, laws aside, leave, let (alone, be, go, have), omit, put (send) away, remit, suffer, yield up).
 - Same word used in the prayer formula in Matthew 6 (see Matthew 6:12), further explained in Matthew 6:14-15.
 - Like the king with the servant, God gives us the opportunity and the privilege to walk in freedom when He lets us go from the bondage of our sine debt. There are people who have taken things from us that we have to likewise let go so that they can be free.

*****THERE ARE NO STRINGS ATTACHED TO FORGIVENESS!*****

- He forgot the huge debt the king had forgiven and couldn’t see past the small debt that the other man sought mercy for.
 - When he thought he was holding something over his coworker, instead, he brought himself back into bondage.

LIFE APPLICATION

1. Think of a relationship in your life since you have been a Christian where someone has wronged you:

2. How did you respond to that that wrong?

3. Would your response have been different after this lesson? If so, how?:

4. With your answer to #3 in mind, what are you going to do now to release that person:
