

### **The Unjust Steward/ Servant (Matthew 18:22-35)**

- In Matthew 18 Jesus deals with the important subject of forgiveness
- V. 15-18 Jesus explains how a brother sinning against us is to be treated
- We pursue the offender, tell him his sin & pray God gives repentance
- If the brother hardens his heart – treat him like a tax collector & pagan
- Peter was troubled by this new & radical approach to forgiveness so....

#### **I. Peter's Question & Jesus' Answer Regarding Forgiveness (18:21-22)**

- Peter's question: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, & I forgive him? Up to seven times?"
- Jesus: "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to 70 times seven."

#### **II. Illustration: Parable of the Unjust Servant/ Steward (18:23-35)**

Kingdom of heaven: king who wanted to settle accounts with servants

One was brought to Him who owed him 10,000 denarii (v.23)

He was not able to pay his master, about to be sold into slavery (v.24)

He begs master for time to pay debt! Master forgives all his debt (25,26)

That servant chokes another servant owing far less: jail/ torture (27-30)

Other servants report bad behavior to King: servant is punished (31-34)

#### **III. Understanding and Applying the Lessons of the Parable**

1. King -represents the Father: God calls man whom he created to account
  2. The steward or debtor is "you" a person to whom God offers mercy
  3. The debt, by implication, is what each person owes to God
- a) First, *we owe God a vast debt*
- b) Second, *we do owe smaller debts to each other*
- Warning to the merciless