

Genuine Forgiveness¹

Attitude and Action (Matthew 18: 21-35)

Introduction: Various Therapeutic Counterfeits

1. **Scene One:** The King, in His extraordinary compassion and kindness, forgives the undeserving servant with an insurmountable debt when the servant pleads for mercy.
2. **Scene Two:** The “forgiven” servant, in his wicked cruelty, is unwilling to forgive a minuscule debt (in comparison) owed by another undeserving servant when he pleads for mercy.
3. **Scene Three:** The King, in His justice, rebukes the unmerciful servant for not forgiving his fellow-servant and so returns the huge debt to him along with imprisonment until it’s fully paid.

Main Lesson: The heavenly meaning to this earthly story is: Those who have been the recipients of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (who are forgiven all their sins against this merciful God because they repent and believe in Him) are to reflect the same grace, compassion, and _____ to forgive others of their sins. This Christlike attitude should flow out into their _____ towards others when the erring person _____ forgiveness.

Intentional Meditation

¹ A helpful book on Forgiveness is, Unpacking Forgiveness, Chris Brauns; I deal with the ‘Love Covering’ topic in my book, The Exemplary Husband, 361-363.