



# WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

TEACHING THE WORD. DOING THE WORK. TOUCHING THE WORLD.

## The Parables of Jesus, Part 6

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, December 5, 2021

### Opening Summary

Jesus reveals secrets of the kingdom in parables. In this teaching, we will look at two parables. One illustrates God's attitude about forgiveness. The other describes how good God really is. Pay close attention to the preface of each that tells you why Jesus taught the parable. For when you know why He said these things, you will understand more clearly why you must forgive *everyone*, because God is good to *everyone*.

- I. Mat. 18:23-35 is a parable about forgiveness.
  - A. Mat. 18:1-6 is the background of the parable. Humility is required to be great in the kingdom of Heaven.
    1. Abortion in the USA is one of the reasons for judgment.
    2. Mat. 18:7: Don't allow yourself to be the one initiating offences.
    3. Mat. 18:8: Nothing is worth keeping that will send you to hell.
    4. Mat. 18:15: Go to your brother privately. AGREEMENT.
    5. Mat. 18:15: Write the word "agreement" near this verse.
    6. Mat. 18:16-17: If there is no agreement, that's a problem.
    7. Mat. 18:8: The context is agreement, humility; evil spirits are behind strife.
    8. Mat. 18:19: Agree means to be harmonious.
    9. Mat. 18:20: *Name* (Gk. *onoma*) describes *Jesus' character trait of love*.
    10. Stop allowing things to divide you from others.
    11. Mat. 18:21: Jesus was saying that there is no end to forgiving someone.
  - B. Mat. 18:23-35 is the explanation of the parable.
    1. *Account* (Gk. *logos*) means *the sum total of the written word*. The king wanted to hear what his servants had to say.
    2. Mat. 18:27: The servant owed thousands and could not pay. He begged the king for mercy. The king had compassion and forgave him the debt.
    3. Mat. 18:28: The same servant found someone who owed him a few hundred bucks and threw him in jail.
    4. Mat. 18:29-31: That servant had no mercy on his fellow servant.
    5. Mat. 18:32-33: The king heard about the unmerciful servant.
    6. The context is agreement and forgiveness.
    7. Mat. 18:34: The king reinstated the servant's debt and delivered him to the tormentors until he could pay his debt. But he could never pay it.
  - C. Mat. 18:35 is the application of the parable. You could not have paid your debt of sin. God had compassion on you. As far as God is concerned, whatever someone owes you is nothing compared to the debt you owe Him (Gal. 5:6; Mark 11:25).
    1. The Father will not forgive you if you don't forgive everyone their trespasses.

2. God will not accept you being angry with people for any reason.
3. Let go of things that happened in the past for your own self-preservation.
4. The Father's character is love. Your character should be love.

D. If two of you harmonize together God will do whatever you ask!

1. If you want me to pray for you, we must agree on the scripture you're standing on. What's the basis (scripture)?
2. We ask God to forgive us. We choose to forgive everyone else.

II. Mat. 20:1-16 is a parable about a householder hires workers for his vineyard.

A. Mat. 19:16 is the background of the parable.

1. Mat. 19:16-22: This man's problem was deceitfulness of riches (Mark 4:19).
2. Mat. 19:23-24: It's hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.
3. Mat. 19:25-26: The pull of money is strong; it's hard to resist without help.
4. Mat. 19:27: The disciples forsook their careers, ambitions, fortunes and their desires. Peter asks, 'What do we get?'
5. I give, not to get for myself, but so that people can hear the Word.
6. Mat. 19:28: Jesus is restoring man to the place from which he fell, the place of righteousness and authority. This is specific to the 12.
7. Mat. 19:29: This is to all who do this verse. He shall receive 100 times in this life and shall inherit eternal life (Mark 4:20).
8. Star this verse: Mat. 19:30: "But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first. For the kingdom of heaven is like... (Mat. 20:1)."

B. Mat. 20:1-16 is the parable of a householder who hires workers in his vineyard.

1. A householder is the head of a family.
2. *Early in the morning* refers to the beginning of mankind. Since the flood its been at least 6000 years.
3. Mat. 20:2: The laborer's job is to work for a penny a day.
4. Mat. 20:3: *In the third hour* he hired more for "whatsoever is right".
5. Mat. 20:5: Throughout the day, he hires more until it is late in the day.
6. Mat. 20:6-7: *In the eleventh hour* he hired more to work.
7. Mat. 20:8: We live in the evening time (even time), the late days.
8. He paid them a penny each, starting with the last to the first (Mat. 19:30).
9. Mat. 20:9-10: The last received a penny. The first received a penny.
10. Mat. 20:10-12: The last were made equal to the first. The first complained.
11. Mat. 20:12-13: They got what they agreed to.
12. Mat. 20:14: The householder can do what he wants with his money.
13. Mat. 20:15: The householder is good to all.
14. Mat. 20:16: He called people all day long. Only some accepted the invitation. But all that did, were equal in his sight.

C. This is the application of the parable. God is good all the time.

1. The payment of eternal life is the same for all, because God is good.
2. You may not have served God as long as someone else. But you both get the same reward even if you just decided to believe today.

3. God treats you as equal.
4. We can't say one is better because of their sex, race, nationality, etc. God wants us all to work in His vineyard. Nobody is better than another.

### **Closing Summary**

As you overlap these parables with the parable of the sower in Mark 4:14-20, you see a picture of God's view of forgiveness and what it means when the Scripture says God is good. You can listen to the world or to God. You choose. According to the parable of the sower, three fourths will not listen. Be one of the one fourth, the good ground, who listens and does the Word, enjoying the privilege of victory. Then don't judge what happens to others. Thank God for your penny and be grateful for your blessing. Just know that God will do what is just, because He is good to all. He wants *everyone* to have a chance to say yes to His call.