

Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.

For the sake of time, you may want to choose one or two questions.

Warm up

- How close of a watch do you keep on your bank account? Are you a daily checker, weekly checker or monthly checker?
- Do you see a parallel between the way you handle your financial accounts and the way you manage your relationships?

Read

Matthew 21:18-35

Discuss

1. Read Genesis 4:15, 23-24. What is the parallel between this ancient story and Peter's suggestion that he should forgive someone seven times? How might Peter be trying to impress Jesus?
2. What is absurd about the servant's request to the king? How much does the servant owe? What is the likelihood of him paying back the debt?
3. What motivates the king to eliminate the servant's debt? What do you think motivates the servant to demand immediate repayment from his fellow servant?
4. Why can't you successfully apply the principles of accounting to human relationships? What happens when you try?
5. What is the alternative to keeping accounts or keeping score in our relationships? What is the "Kingdom of Heaven's" (v. 23) approach to relationships?
6. What is the consequence of not forgiving those who have wronged us? Do you think Jesus is referring to a future punishment or a present state of existence in his pronouncement in v. 35? How do we torture ourselves when we refuse to forgive?
7. Is there a particular relationship in your life that you sense this story is speaking to? Would you be willing to share with the group how this story is influencing and affecting you?

Wrap Up:



Spend time in prayer together.