

## Candidacy II, Unit 5

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### Parables

The Unforgiving Servant, Mt. 18:23-35

The Talents, Mt.: 25:14-30

The Judgement of Nations, Mt. 25:31-46

### Hard Sayings

Forgiveness, Mt. 18:22

Forgiveness, Mt. 18:34-35

The hard sayings relate to the parables. In Mt. 18:21 Peter asks the Lord how many times he should forgive his brother who sins against him. Then he says “as many as seven times?” Peter was exhibiting what he thought was magnanimity because the Jewish rabbis said one should forgive three times. When Jesus answered seventy times seven it must have astounded Peter. To illustrate, Jesus then told the parable of the unforgiving servant (Mt. 18:23-35). Owing 10,000 talents was an impossible amount to pay. A talent was about 15 years wages, a huge sum of money. Jesus was saying we need to forgive without limits. Forgive all the time, every time. The master in the parable had mercy on the servant. He forgave the debt that was impossible for the servant to pay. The unjust servant wanted mercy for himself, but refused to give mercy to another who owed a tiny amount in comparison to what the unjust servant had just been forgiven. This shows ingratitude to his master and no recognition of compassion. Jesus gives us the pattern in how we must forgive *from the heart*. Jesus paid the debt for our sins that was impossible for us to pay. How can we turn around and refuse to forgive fellow human beings their offenses against us?

The hard saying of Mt. 18:34-35 says, “And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So, also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” Jesus also said this when He taught us to pray the Our Father (Mt. 6:9-15). Vs. 15 says...”but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Humanly, we are not able to forgive “from the heart.” Only the Holy Spirit can give us the mind of Christ and enable us to forgive as God does. The ability to forgive is a gift from God. It is an act of the will, not an emotional feeling. We need to pray for this grace and decide with our rational mind, to set our will to forgive others their offenses toward us. Extending forgiveness transforms us. It is dying to self.

In the parable of the “talents” the master entrusted each servant with talents *according to their ability*. God doesn’t put more responsibility on us or expect more of us than we are capable of with the grace He provides. The slothful servant didn’t trust or love his master. The servant judged his master to be a hard man. The servant did the minimum he thought he could get by with. The servant that had been given five talents had demonstrated his willingness, honesty and motivation to be a good steward of his master’s property. Therefore, he could be trusted to continue in those character traits. God will give us more gifts, and responsibility as we wisely

use whatever He has given us. He gives us growth as we develop the gifts He gives us so we become capable of handling more.

In the Judgement of Nations (Mt. 25:31-46) This parable also contains a “hard saying.” Jesus confirms that we are made in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26) and he loves us as family. If someone helps and loves one of our children, it’s like helping and showing love to us. We feel gratitude to that person. Conversely, if someone neglects or abuses our children, it hurts and angers us. Failure to recognize the truth of God’s image in everyone and His familial love for each of us results in selfishness. God loves each of us more than we could possibly love our children. If we love and care for our children, how much more does God love and care for His children. To fail to care for God’s other children, our brothers and sisters, shows contempt for God. It demonstrates a self-absorption that ignores God and shows ingratitude for the gifts He gives us. So, the parable contains both the wonder of eternal reward for showing love and concern for our fellow man and the devastating consequences of failure to do so.