

Matthew 18:21-35

Consider the characters in the story:

THE MASTER –

- What was the Master willing to lose?

After the servant begged for mercy, He was willing to lose everything.

- How did the Master display the character of God the Father?

He was merciful!

THE SERVANT –

- How did his behavior reveal his true attitude toward the Master's forgiveness?

He only acted grateful in front of the Master, but when given an opportunity to do the same for one of his servants, he instead grabbed and choked him and demanded the servant pay him what he owed.

Summary:

Verse 32-35

- How does the outcome of the servant's actions confirm the truth of Jesus' beatitude?

Nothing moves us to forgive like the wondering knowledge that we ourselves have been forgiven. Nothing proves more clearly that we have been forgiven than our own readiness to forgive.

- In what sense does verse 35 still reflect the character of a merciful God?

John Stott says, "the point of this parable is not that we merit mercy by mercy or forgiveness by forgiveness. The point is that we cannot receive the mercy and forgiveness of God unless we repent, and we cannot claim

to have repented of our sins if we are unmerciful toward the sin of others. Or, interpreted in the context of the beatitudes, it is “the meek” who are also “the merciful.” For to be meek is to acknowledge to others that we are sinners; to be merciful is to have compassion on others, for they are sinners too.

Compiled using John Stott - The Beatitudes