

# The Facilitator

---

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

9/8/19

**Text: Matthew 18:21-35**

**Title: Parables of the Kingdom - The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**

**Teacher: Tim Rice**

## **Surrender through Prayer:**

*Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.*

## **Engage with the Sermon**

*Read the passage together*

***In the sermon, Tim walked us through the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant which asks the question, “if Jesus is forgiving and healing people, how much am I expected to forgive people?” As we saw in this parable God’s people are faced with a challenging reality. First, we don’t understand how much we’ve sinned against God, so we therefore can’t possibly understand how much we’ve been forgiven. Second, because we don’t accurately see our forgiveness from God, we are unable to forgive others in turn. And finally, whatever it is that we have the hardest time forgiving others (certain people, debts, slander, hurt...etc.), that reveals an area of deep brokenness and deep idolatry in our hearts. It is an area we value more highly than God’s forgiveness, and it is an area in which we have misunderstood how we’ve mistreated God in the exact same way. The amazing message of the Gospel is that, in the face of a \$9 Billion+ debt of sin God has against us, He willingly and lovingly absorbs the cost of all that debt to pay the penalty for our sins himself, and offer us a far greater hope and love than anything else in this world. He has shown us immense mercy and forgiveness, and by renewing our hearts through His spirit, invites us to do the same.***

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. *Tim said 85% of firings in the U.S. workplace were not about performance or skill, but about an individual’s inability to work well with colleagues. (I.e. Relationships)*
  - ***What areas of your life have been marked by un-forgiveness, or an inability to reconcile?***
2. *Tim said wherever we find it hardest to forgive or “absorb the debt,” that is where we’re holding on to idols. (If I can’t forgive being mocked, I have an idol of my reputation)*
  - ***What things are hardest for you to forgive?***
  - ***What might that reveal about the idols of your heart?***
3. *Tim said we are told to forgive others “from the heart”, but our hearts are broken and wicked. Only by God’s Spirit renewing our hearts will we be able to truly forgive.*
  - ***In the areas where it’s the hardest for you to forgive, where do you need God to renew your heart?***
  - ***How have you wronged God the same way that person has wronged you?***

# The Facilitator

---

## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER:**

### **A.C.T.S.**

*(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)*

#### **1. ADORATION (The Father)**

***Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions***

- *Worship the LORD who delights to show mercy and steadfast love! Praise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for being willing to completely pardon and cleanse anyone who turns to him in faith and repentance.*

#### **2. CONFESSION (Me)**

***Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited***

- *How have you lived in bitterness or with an unforgiving spirit toward others who harm or disappoint you? Confess your bitterness to Jesus as a violation of His character when He is so free in how He forgives.*

#### **3. THANKSGIVING (Jesus)**

***Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)***

- *Give thanks to Jesus for how He bore the outs of your sin and pride. Thank Him for freely giving up His Father's approval so that we could gain it by His Grace.*

#### **4. SUPPLICATION (Holy Spirit)**

***Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways***

- *Ask the Holy Spirit to persuade you that Jesus' estimate of 10,000 talents is a realistic measure of your debt to God. Ask Him to grow in you such a deep sense of His mercy that you would be eager to forgive others who affect or disappoint you.*

#### **5. Prepare for Gospel Community (My Neighbor)**

***Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.***

- *Who do you know that is bitter or unforgiving? Pray for them asking the Lord to open their eyes to see themselves in light of their true indebtedness to God, and that they'd humble themselves before Him.*