



# The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

## Lenten Meditations

### UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

#### Mathew 18: 21-35

The key verse is taken from the parable of the Unmerciful Servant . Although the servant in the parable is unmerciful the parable is about God's abundant forgiveness towards us. The parable teaches us that no one is perfect and that everyone deserves a chance to be forgiven and that everyone should be willing to forgive.

#### Seeking Forgiveness is our dire need

We should constantly remind ourselves about the mercies we receive on a daily basis. The parable has a strong message for us. It clearly states that we as human beings tend to be selfish. We want mercy or forgiveness, yet we are not ready to forgive others. We need to remember that Jesus Christ, the King, will forgive our sins however big they are. He died on the cross so that our sins are forgiven. All we need to do is ask for forgiveness in the form of "Kneel Mail" (i.e. prayer) and communicate with Him. In this modern age effective communication is important. "Kneel Mail" communication, unlike any e-mail, cell phone, iPhone, or Facebook conversations, that we are so accustomed to, is a bit different. God expects us to communicate with Him. The difference is that, for "Kneel Mail" to be successful, we must have a personal relationship with God.

#### Extending Forgiveness is a prior condition

When we are confident about our relationship we also tend to be forgiving and that is something God wants of us. It is not enough to seek forgiveness. We need to be forgiving too. In the Lord's Prayer (the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray) that is the only conditional clause. "Forgive our sins as we forgive others." We ought to forgive in order to be forgiven by God. Perhaps, Peter wanted to set a limit to forgiveness. That is why he raises this question before Jesus. But Jesus response was very radical. He wanted to take the limits away – an unlimited and unconditional forgiveness. In Ephesians 4:32 we read, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you".

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, help me to understand your abundant mercy. Help me to realize that you have forgiven my sins. Teach me to be forgiving. Help me to replace the feelings of hate with feelings of forgiveness. Amen.

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**"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"**

**Matthew 18:21**