**“Summertime Stories: The Unmerciful Servant”**

Christ’s Church of Marion County

Ray Burhart, Lead Pastor

August 7, 2022

**Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)**

**21**Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

**22**Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

**23**“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. **24**As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. **25**Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

**26**“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ **27**The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

**28**“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

**29**“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

**30**“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. **31**When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

**32**“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. **33**Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ **34**In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

**35**“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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