

THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

New Testament Lesson #62

To illustrate the importance of forgiving others, Jesus gave the parable of the unmerciful servant. A certain king checked the accounts of his servants and found that one owed him 10,000 talents. When it was found that the man had nothing to pay, the king commanded that he be sold, as well as his wife, his children and all that he had. But the servant fell down and pleaded for mercy. The king took pity on him and forgave the debt.

Later, this same servant came to one of his peers who owed him 100 denarii. He seized this man by the throat and demanded immediate payment. The second servant's plea was essentially the same as his own, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you," but the first servant had no pity and threw him into prison.

When the other servants saw what had happened, they told the king, who summoned the unmerciful servant and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me." He told the servant that he should have had mercy on his fellow servant, just as the king had had mercy on him. The king delivered him to prison and required that he repay the debt that had originally been forgiven.

Jesus summarized the lesson this way: "So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart" (v. 35).

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- A single talent was worth more than 15 years' wages of a laborer (and the servant owed 10,000 of them!), while a denarius was the equivalent of a single day's wage (the second servant owed only 100 of them). Thus, the relative value of what was forgiven by the king was dramatically more than the pittance the servant refused to forgive. In today's money, the king forgave millions while the servant would not forgive a few hundred dollars.

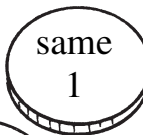
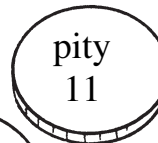
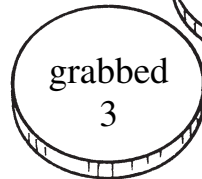
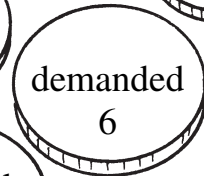
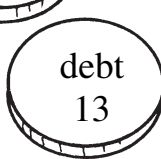
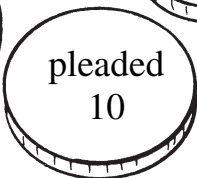
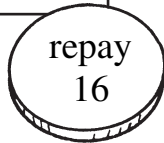
The Unmerciful Servant

- I. Jesus told the parable of the unmerciful servant.
 - A. A king learned that one of his servants owed him 10,000 talents.
 - B. The man could pay nothing.
 - C. The king ordered that the servant, his wife, children and possessions be sold.
 - D. The servant pleaded for mercy, so the king forgave the debt.
- II. The same servant was owed 100 denari by a man.
 - A. The man could not pay and begged for mercy.
 - B. The servant had no pity for the debtor and threw him into prison.
- III. The king learned about the event and called the servant.
 - A. He called him wicked.
 - B. He said the servant should have forgiven the 100 denari debt, just as his own debt had been forgiven.
 - C. The king imprisoned the servant and ordered him to repay the original debt.
- IV. Jesus summarized the parable.
 - A. He said forgiveness must come from the heart.
 - B. If people do not forgive each other, they cannot expect God's forgiveness.

ANSWER KEY:

same, servant, wicked, forgave,
servant, owed, debt, pleaded,
grabbed, throat, servant, prison,
demanded, pay, repay, debt
servant, pleaded,
patience, pay,
servant, pity, threw,
prison

Fill in the blanks with words from the coins.



Later, this _____
 $1 + 0 =$ $24 - 22 =$

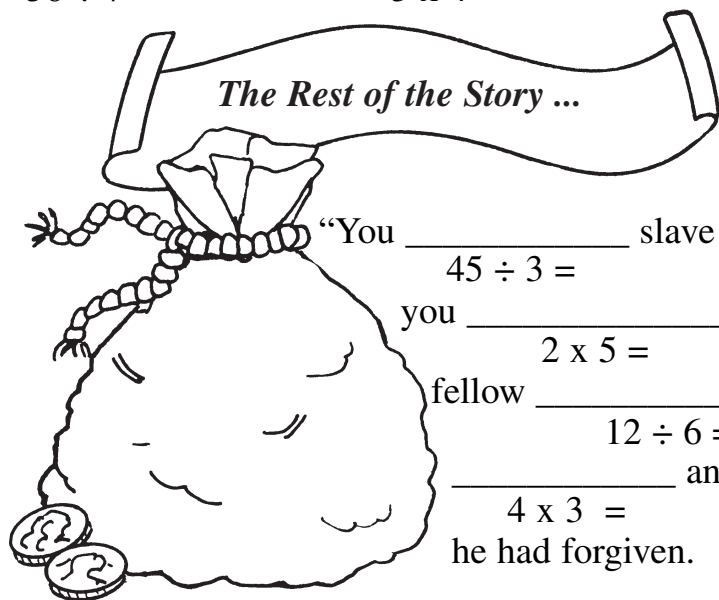
came to another _____ who _____ him 100 denarii.
 $4 \div 2 =$ $25 \div 5 =$

He _____ the man by the _____ and _____ that he
 $27 \div 9 =$ $28 - 24 =$ $30 \div 5 =$

_____ immediately! The other _____ with him, "Have
 $49 \div 7 =$ $82 - 80 =$ $90 - 80 =$

_____. I will _____ you." The first _____ had no _____ and
 $63 \div 7 =$ $49 \div 7 =$ $150 \div 75 =$ $99 \div 9 =$

_____ him into _____!
 $56 \div 7 =$ $3 \times 4 =$



The Rest of the Story ...

The other servants saw what had happened. They told the king about it. He called the unmerciful servant to him.

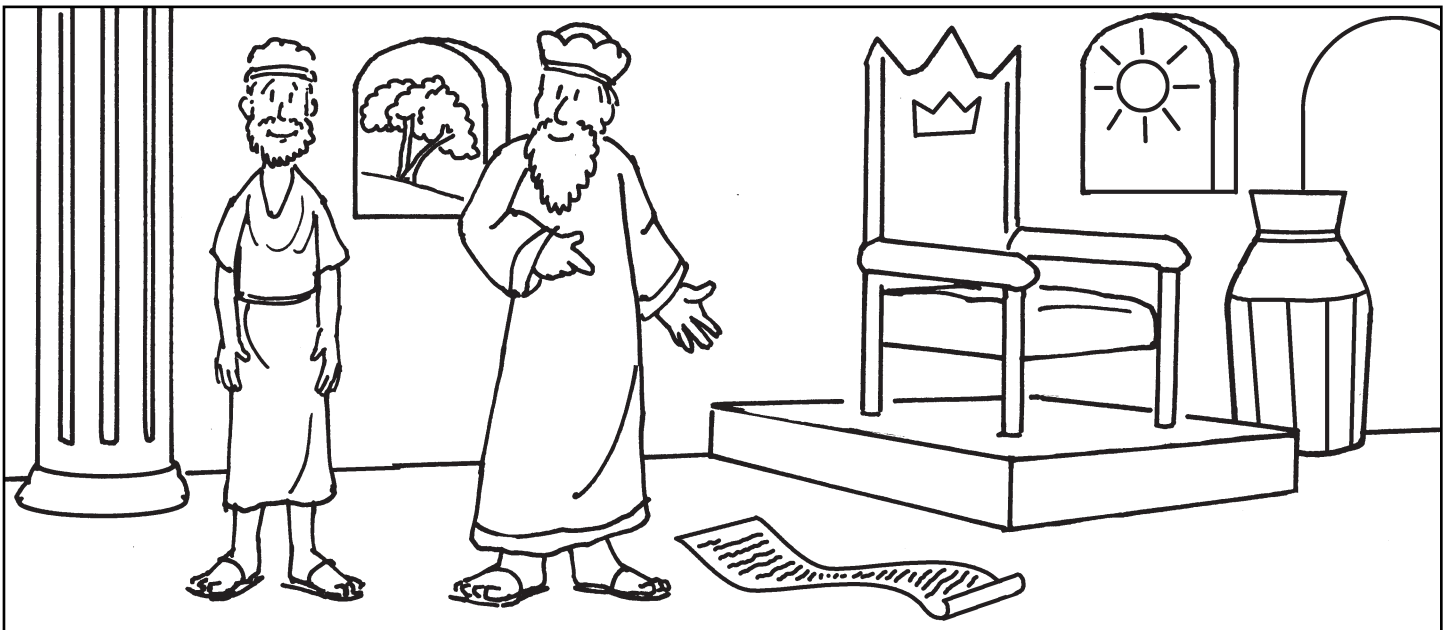
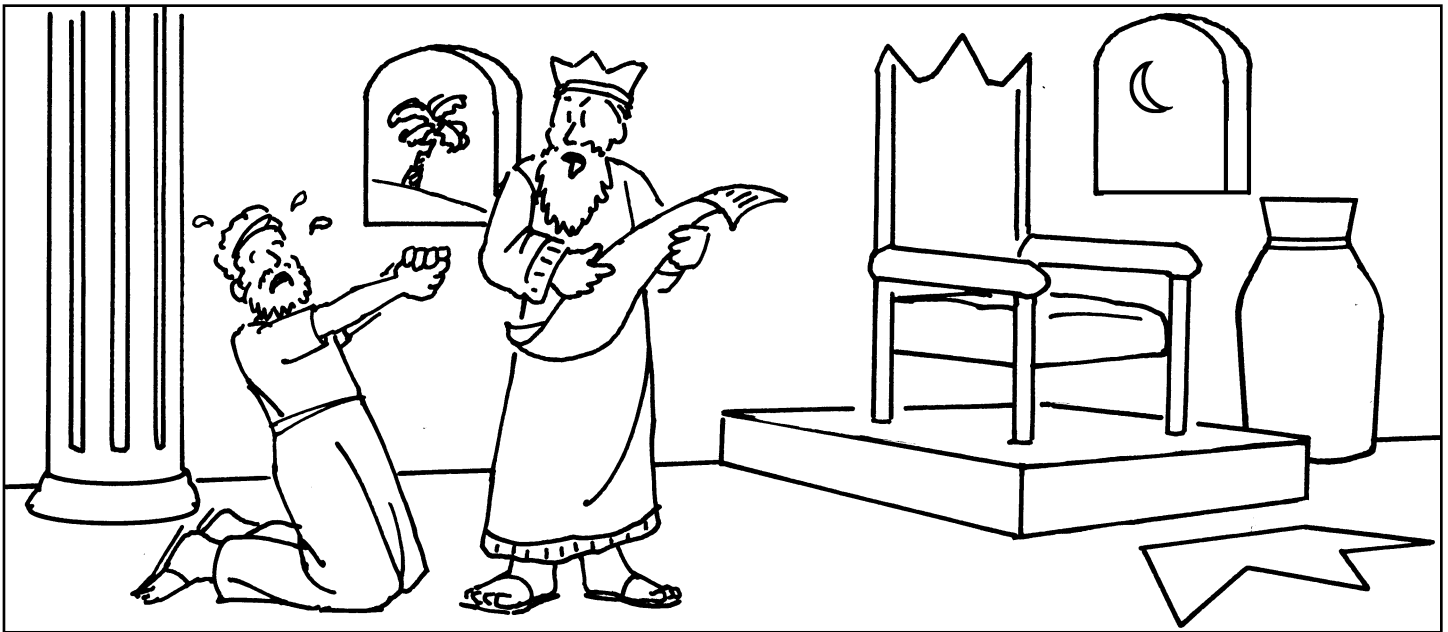
"You _____ slave! I _____ all your _____ because
 $45 \div 3 =$ $56 \div 4 =$ $39 - 26 =$
you _____ with me. You should have had mercy on your
 $2 \times 5 =$
fellow _____ as I did on you." So the king took him to
 $12 \div 6 =$
_____ and required him to _____ the _____
 $4 \times 3 =$ $8 \times 2 =$ $9 + 4 =$
he had forgiven.

"So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."
—Matthew 18:35

Name _____

A servant owed his king more money than he could repay. He pleaded for mercy, and the king forgave his debt.

Circle 7 things different in the bottom picture.



Name _____