



# THE PARABLES OF Jesus

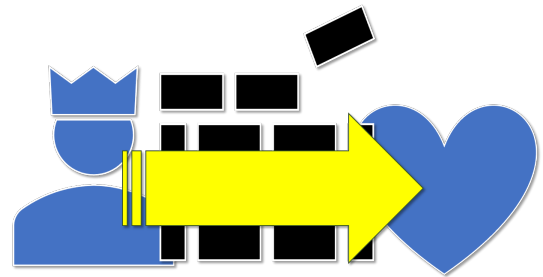


## A Pharisee, a Tax Collector, and an Unforgiving Servant

Lesson 6

As our study of the parables of Jesus has developed, we've zeroed in on a few really important truths:

- ✦ We each have a God-given heart
- ✦ Jesus is the King who comes with news of a kingdom that turns the world upside down
- ✦ As human beings, we can easily put up walls between our hearts and the message of this true and rightful King
- ✦ Parables are powerful teaching tools that can sneak right past the walls we've put up and "smack us awake," forcing us to come face to face with truths we really need to see



Most recently, we've seen these truths in the form of parables that provide much-needed reminders of our dependence *on* God and our unworthiness *before* God. As two more examples, consider Jesus' parables of (1) a Pharisee and a tax collector, and (2) an unforgiving servant.

- ✦ "He also told this parable to some who trusted in \_\_\_\_\_ that they were righteous, and treated others with \_\_\_\_\_: 'Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector... I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ himself will be humbled, but the one who \_\_\_\_\_ himself will be exalted.'" (Luke 18:9-14)
- ✦ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents (**1 talent = \_\_\_\_\_ years' worth of wages** for the common laborer; **10,000 talents?!? = \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS' worth of wages!**)... But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii (**1 denarius = \_\_ days' worth of wages** for the common laborer)... So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not \_\_\_\_\_ your brother from your heart." (Matt 18:23-35)

**What's the point?** What does Jesus want us to see about his kingdom? In what ways does his kingdom turn our world upside down? **Let's talk about it...**



## For Class & Family Discussion:

We're noticing that several of Jesus' parables diagnose our tendency to forget how dependent and unworthy we really are. In your own words...

🗣️ What does it mean to be "dependent" on God?

🗣️ What does it mean to be "unworthy" before God?

Why are these so easy for most of us to overlook or forget?

When we become blind to our dependence and unworthiness, what sort of ugliness can easily come out of our hearts?

Going back to **Luke 18:9-14**...

🗣️ *Why* did Jesus tell his parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector?

🗣️ How can we, if we're not careful, be like that Pharisee?

🗣️ What was special about the tax collector? What does Jesus want us to see?

Going back to **Matthew 18**...

🗣️ *Why* did Jesus tell his parable of the unforgiving servant?

🗣️ How can we, if we're not careful, be like that unforgiving servant?