

THE SUNDAY PAPER

Year A
PROPER 19
TRACK 2

People were always asking Jesus questions. Often, he would answer by telling a story. We call these stories PARABLES.

THE GOOD KING

Matthew 18: 21-35
ONE DAY, PETER ASKED JESUS A QUESTION!

MASTER, IF SOMEONE KEEPS ON TREATING ME BADLY, AGAIN AND AGAIN, HOW OFTEN DO I HAVE TO KEEP ON FORGIVING THEM?

SEVEN TIMES?

NO - I TELL YOU, YOU NEED TO FORGIVE THEM (MATTHEW 18: 22) TIMES! LISTEN!

ONCE THERE WAS A KING. SOME OF HIS SERVANTS OWED HIM MONEY!

YOU OWE ME TEN THOUSAND TALENTS! I WILL HAVE TO SELL YOU AS A SLAVE, TO GET MY MONEY!

OH NO!! PLEASE!!

GIVE ME TIME! I'LL PAY YOU!!

I KNOW YOU'VE WASTED THAT MONEY - YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PAY IT BACK! GO HOME... YOUR DEBT IS FORGIVEN!

NOW THIS SERVANT HAD A FRIEND, WHO OWED HIM SOME MONEY!

HEY YOU! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN...

HELP!!

AND HE HAD HIS FRIEND PUT IN JAIL!

WHEN THE KING HEARD ABOUT IT, HE WAS OUTRAGED!

FORGIVEN?! OH WOW! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!

...THAT HUNDRED PENNIES YOU OWE ME?! PAY UP! RIGHT NOW!

GIVE ME TIME! I'LL PAY YOU!

NO WAY!

HE TOOK BACK HIS FORGIVENESS! HE PUT THE SERVANT IN JAIL AFTER ALL, BECAUSE OF THE TEN THOUSAND TALENTS THAT HE OWED!

Jesus said to Peter that God is like that king. We all owe him something that we can't pay. We owe him our whole selves, because he is God. And we can't pay him, because we are sinners. We have spoiled and wasted what he gave us. God knows this, and he forgives us, just like the king in the story.

Jesus said that this makes everything different! Now, instead of keeping track of what we owe to God, we can just be glad that God loves us. But that means we need to stop keeping track of what other people owe us, too!

GENESIS 50:20

(Joseph forgives his brothers for the evil they did to him)

GOD HAS BROUGHT GOOD OUT OF EVIL!



PSALM 103:11

"As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's mercy toward us"



ROMANS 14:8

"We do not belong to ourselves, but to the Lord, no matter what we do"



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