

A parable is a *comparison*. Let's illustrate what a parable does.

“A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”

What do you find beneficial about that definition?

How do you think that definition might be improved?

Unforgiving Servant

Read Matthew 18:15-22 for the background to the parable.

Briefly summarize the steps Jesus teaches to address a brother's sin.

What does Jesus assure about the result of using those steps?

What question did Peter ask, and how did Jesus answer it?

Read Matthew 18:23-27.

Draw an illustration for the first half of the parable.

A talent could be worth about \$15,000 today. How much did he owe?

Compare the servant's plea with the king's action.

Why would the king do that?

What does the first half of the parable have to say to you?

Read Matthew 18:28-35.

Draw an illustration for the second half of the parable.

A denarius could be worth about \$80 today. How much did he owe?

Compare the second servant's plea with the first servant's action.

What was the basis of the king's anger?

What was the fate of the unforgiving servant?

What does Jesus' conclusion to the parable have to say to you?

What does the parable teach about forgiveness?