



Home Group study: week beginning 16th April 2023

TITLE: Parables – stories to live by: The Master and The Servant

PASSAGE: Luke 17:7-10

As a positive opener, ask for any positive encouragements people in your group can give right now - things like answered prayer or an exciting thing they are looking forward to.

Christians sometimes say “I didn’t think life was supposed to be like this.” Do you feel like that? Why? What do people mean when they say it?

What would you say is the ‘hope’ that Christians have?

What bible verses talk about it? (Romans 5:1-11 is great)

Read Luke 17:7-10

Why do you think Jesus told this little parable?

Talk about what it must have been like to be a servant in those days. What rights did they have back then?

Do Christians have rights now? What about the right to respect?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and Rev 5:9.

What does it mean to be ‘bought for God’?

What does ‘I am not my own’ mean for you?

What ‘rights’ do we have if it is true?

Do you think Larry Crabb, a Christian writer, is correct when he says in one of his books: ‘self-respect is a hearty weed that needs to be pulled up.’?

Read Luke 17:3-4. Link the idea of ‘rights’ to forgiveness. If we are ‘not our own’, what should be our response when someone does us wrong?

RT Kendall’s book ‘Total Forgiveness’ has the amazing concept of forgiving someone totally in it, as described below. Read it if you feel it would be good for your group, and discuss it.

Ask if anyone in the group is working through forgiveness and wants to talk about it. Pray for them.

Because of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection we are now 'royal priests'. It says it in Rev 5:10 and 1 Peter 2:9. What does it all mean?

Does it mean that we are like both the master (or manager) and servant in the parable? If so, how does that feel for you right now!?

Pray

Pray for each other as we navigate through this challenging life.

Pray for our leaders in Jubilee and the Church and the Nation.

RT Kendall - The proof we have totally forgiven someone.

The ultimate proof of total forgiveness is when we sincerely petition our Father to let off the hook, those who have hurt us badly.

At the height of one of the fiercest eras in my church leadership ministry, I had to come face-to-face with this. I remembered wise words spoken to me by a friend in the past to 'totally forgive' people, so I prayed for certain people to be forgiven.

I felt nothing; I just said it. But then, after a few moments, it was as though the Lord said to me: "do you know what do you are asking me to do?" I thought that I knew. So I said, "Yes." He then seemed to reply, "Are you now asking me to set them free as if they had done nothing?"

That sobered me. I needed some time on that one. But while I was pondering that, it seemed that the Lord reminded me of what he had forgiven me of. I was frightened of the thought that he might reveal – or let come out – somethings for which he had forgiven me.

I then humbly prayed, "Yes, Lord, I ask you to forgive them." He then seemed to say, "Do you therefore mean that I should bless them and prosper them?" Once more, I needed a little time. Then the Lord seem to say, "What is I forgive and bless you, in proportion to how you want me to forgive and bless them?"

By this time I had no choice. Neither could I claim any great piety on my part for forgiving them, and praying that they be blessed. God had boxed me into a corner and I surrendered.

I sincerely and truly prayed for them to be forgiven and blessed as though they have done no offence. But I cannot claim that my prayer was particularly godly or unselfish.