

The Parables of Jesus

Parables Of Repentance and Forgiveness

Which comes first: repentance or forgiveness?

Romans 5:10

Luke 17:3

A. The Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)

	The Pharisee	The Tax Collector
What he felt about himself		
How he acted on that feeling		
Therefore, his status before God		

Remember the status of these two men *in society*. So in the 21st century, Jesus would be telling a parable about _____ and _____.

Main Point: _____

Application:

1. Who are the “sinners” to our religious community? What is our attitude toward them?
2. Which of the two is the proper attitude?
What do we do to foster this attitude in the Lutheran Church?
How have you tried to do this personally?
3. When we share that tax collector’s knowledge of our own sinfulness, how do we feel about others?
4. “Why do you think so many people confess their sins at taverns rather than in church?”

B. The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7)

How many lost sheep are likely to find their way home by themselves?

Main Point: _____

Application:

1. Have you ever been “lost” in your walk of faith? How did God call you back?
2. What are our reaction when someone repents?
What are some different possible feelings when someone repents?

C. The Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:21-35)

Read verses 21-23

Jewish law required a person to forgive his neighbor three times. After that you could do as you wished.

How often does the Bible compare salvation to settling accounts? Why?

So why does Jesus tell this parable?

Read verses 24-27

This could never be paid off. Note what was threatened.

Therefore what did the king say?

What did he not say?

Read verses 28-30

What different factors make this behavior so bad?

Read verses 31-35

What was the basis for throwing the man in prison?

Main Point: _____

Reason #1 (24-27): _____

Reason #2 (28-30): _____

Reason #3 (31-35): _____

Application:

1. Who is helped most when we forgive? Explain.
2. Is it allowed to refuse forgiveness to one who does not act sorry?
3. Often people do not forgive each other. Why?
4. Which of the three reasons is easiest to forget?
Which of the three reasons is most important/meaningful to you? Why?
5. The Christian life has often been compared to a journey. Do you feel that you are better at forgiving that you were a five years earlier on your journey? What makes you say that?
6. (From Serendipity Study Bible) If you were Peter, what would have been your thoughts after Jesus answered your question?
I don't understand This is serious stuff This is going to be hard to do
I'm anxious to give this a try I'm sorry I asked
7. (From Serendipity Study Bible) To whom do you have to say "I'm sorry" the most?

