

# Stories: Old and New

## Parables of Jesus for 21st century society

### The parable of the unmerciful servant (part 10)

**Read:** Matthew 18:21-35; Col. 3:13; Matthew 6:12-14.

1. What did you make of Patricia Machin's response to the man who killed her husband through careless driving? Why do you think that expectation for revenge is so intrinsic within our society? [The CPS apologised to her because they thought she would be disappointed by the leniency of the charge against the man who killed her husband]. Do you have any stories of forgiveness that have 'taken your breath away'?
2. Read Matthew 18:21-22. Peter attempted to put a cap on the extent of forgiveness? Is this something that you can relate to? In which ways do we do this? What was Jesus' reaction?
3. Steve said that when it comes to forgiveness we need to start in the throne-room of the King. What do you think he meant? Where do we often start?
4. In which way does this story provide us a picture of our relationship with God? In which way is our debt also unpayable?
5. In which way does God's forgiveness to us shape the way we forgive others? In which way does the first servant's attitude 'make your blood boil'? In which way are we that servant?
6. Nelson Mandela said, 'Resentment, it is like drinking poison and then hoping that it will kill your enemies.' Why is forgiveness such a good thing?
7. Steve said that the point of this story is that forgiveness is never about **them** (meaning those who have hurt us) but is about **Him** (God). What do you think Steve meant by that? Also see Col. 3:13.
8. Why do you think that Jesus links God's forgiving us with our forgiving other people? See Matthew 6:12-14; 18:32-35.
9. With reference to Corrie Ten Boom's story of letting go of the rope, what rope do you need to let go of? Please take a few moments to pray with group members struggling to let go.