Intro: 23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” Matthew 18:23-35

• In God's great mercy, He gave His Son to die in our stead. Because we were born in sin (Rom. 3:23), we should die for our sins (Rom. 6:23). "But the gift of God is eternal life." It is God's desire that all repent- 2 Peter 3:9. When we accept God's mercy, we must show mercy toward all and that means for us to be patient.

I. Forgiveness and patient needs to be together – 23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

a. Jesus set the standard for forgiveness and patience – “the master came to collect his debt”

• *The master came to collect on his debts to his servants on one owed more than he could pay* – v. 24. A man owed 10,000 talents ($10,000,000).

b. Jesus has the right to collect what is owed to him

• Just because you have a right does not mean you should. Patience evaluates each circumstance to make sound decisions. He was unable to pay the debt, and he and his family were to be sold as slaves. By Roman law he had the right but gave forgiveness instead of condemnation.

c. We should ask Jesus for patience and forgiveness – “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.”

• He appealed to His Master to have compassion and patience while he would pay off what he owed. He asked for compassion and patience. The master forgave his debt The Christians are to be patient and forgiving.

° 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

d. Jesus is faithful to have patience and forgiveness

• He asked for compassion and patience. God forgives us from all sin - And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven" Luke 7:48; See also *1 John 1:7, 9*.

° 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:7-9

II. Now we will see an example of our impatience – 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

a. This servant went out of his way to be impatient

• Having his debt forgiven and having a new lease on life you would think that the servant would be grateful. But he wasn’t he went out of his way and doubled down on his servant. He didn’t have the same forgiveness and patience that was given to him.

° 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:14, 15

b. This servant did not follow his master example

• The impatient servant accosted a man who owed him $2,000. He was impatient, forgetting that he owed a tremendous debt that had been forgiven. The debtor pleaded for time to pay his debt. The same plea was given but this time there was not forgiveness nor patient given. The master set the example, but the servant failed to follow. Christ gives us the great example of forgiveness an patience to follow, but how often to we follow it.

° 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. John 13:15-17

c. Forgiveness and Patience are to be applied daily

• No patience is shown. Because of his lake of patience, he easily forgot the forgiveness. The Bible warns us not to forget all the benefits of God - Ps. 103:2. God forgives and forgets our transgressions. While we are not God, we are strongly urged to follow Christ example - we should show patience with our forgiveness.

° 21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Matthew 18:21, 22

III. Others can see the poor witness of not be patient – 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

a. Let’s learn on how to Be a good example – When his fellow servants saw what had taken place . . . they went and reported to their master . . .”

• Fellow-servants saw the forgiven man being unforgiving, a poor example of the master's kindness. It is not what you read that people see, it is what you live that people see. If they see you living what you read they will believe, and follow, but if they see you not living what you read, then they will turn on you, it is that simple.

° 7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, 8 and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. Titus 2:7, 8

B. We should not bring shame to God’s name

• Note the shame he brought on the master and himself - vs. 32-34. He is called a "wicked servant" by the master. People know that I’m not perfect, but people also know that I live what I preach. If there is anyone who’s would be considered a shame it would be me, rest you condemnation on me, Christ is perfect, will be perfect, and has always been perfect. The master had shown compassion and forgiveness; the servant did not deal in like manner with his fellow-servant. The wicked servant was punished because of his impatience, unforgiving spirit, and lack of appreciation.

C. So what is the importance of patience - v. 35.

1. We should be patient with others

2. Remember God is patient with us

° 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Matthew 6:12

Discipleship Questions:

1. Looking through the passage, what differences do you find?

2. Think about someone who has hurt you over and over. How do you feel about Jesus' answer (v. 22)?

3. How does the master illustrate God's patience and forgiveness toward us in verse 27?

4. How does the way the first servant was treated contrast with the way he treats his fellow servant?

5. Why do you think he failed to be patient or forgiving after having been forgiven so much?

6. If we fail to treat others with patience and forgiveness, how will God treat us?

Why is his judgment so harsh?

7. How can a deep appreciation for God's patience and forgiveness help us to be patient with a difficult person?