

# The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

## A Reader's Theater Script based on Matthew 18

### CAST

Peter  
Jesus  
King  
Saul  
Narrator  
Jonah  
Mary  
Martha  
Guard

PETER: *(To Jesus)* Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

JESUS: I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

PETER: *(Counting on fingers, scratching his head)* That seems like a lot of forgiveness.

JESUS: The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

PETER: Ten thousand talents! That's more than a million dollars!

KING: Pay up what you owe! A million dollars will clear the books.

SAUL: *(About to cry)* I don't have it.

KING: In that case have him, his wife and his children and all that he has be sold to repay the debt.

SAUL: Please, don't sell us into slavery! Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything.

KING: Tell you what. I feel like being forgiving today. Cancel the debt. You are free to go.

SAUL: Thank you! Thank you sooooo much! Wooo Hooo!

NARRATOR: But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii

PETER: *(Interrupting)* That's not much. That's like lunch money

NARRATOR: The servant who had been forgiven his million dollar debt grabbed him and began to choke him

JONAH: *(Gack! Ackkkk! And other chocking sounds)*

SAUL: Pay back what you owe me!

JONAH: Please! Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

SAUL: No way! *(To king's guard)* I want this man thrown into prison until he pays the debt.

NARRATOR: When the others saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

MARY: King, you aren't going to believe what we just saw!

MARTHA: You know Saul, the guy who owed you a million dollars? He just had Jonah thrown in jail.

KING: What for? Murder? Treason?

MARY: No, because Jonah owed Saul a hundred denarii

MARTHA: That's nothing. It's like lunch money.

KING: Guard, bring Saul back in here.

GUARD: Yes, sir!

SAUL: Yes, sir. What seems to be the problem?

KING: You wicked servant. I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?

SAUL: *(Embarrassed)* I don't know what to say?

NARRATOR: The king turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

JESUS: This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.

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