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| **SERIES** | Sermon Series Title – PARABLES |
| **BIBLE** | Scripture Section – MATTHEW 18:21- 35 |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | Sermon Title/Topic – FORGIVENESS FROM THE HEART |
| **OVERVIEW** | Create a paragraph to be the written E*levator Pitch* for the sermon.  “Better than I deserve” is a great answer to the everyday neighborly question of “How you doing?” Though the world’s narrative of life often makes God out to be angry and vengeful, the truth of scripture states that God has been more than just and fair with us – He has been generous and merciful. This parable of the kingdom teaches that God desires His subjects to reflect His heart of mercy. Don’t believe the lie that good people are being mistreated by a bad god. Instead, rejoice that our good God, the King, has treated us bad people with unbelievable mercy and forgiveness. Now we get to go share the same. |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | Exegetical:  **In the Kingdom, forgiveness is not a good deed to be counted. (21-22)**  *21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.*  **(the Kingdom precedent is) Like a King who generously and mercifully forgave his servant (23-27)**  *27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.*  **(the Kingdom ethic is) Like a servant who should have generously and mercifully forgiven his fellow servants. (28-31)**  *30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.*  \*Those who have been shown great mercy are expected to show great mercy.  **(the Kingdom warning is) Like a king who, though generous in mercy, also severe in justice. (32-34)**  *34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.*  **In the Kingdom, generous and merciful forgiveness from the heart is the expected response from those who have been forgiven by our heavenly Father. (35)**  *35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”* |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  Though we are wicked servants who have squandered God grace, in Christ, God did not treat us as our sins deserve. Instead, Jesus paid our debt and set us free. Now we can live knowing we have been forgiven, and sharing that merciful good news everywhere!  Psalm 103: 8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.  II Corinthians 5: 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  BEGIN - Repent of trying to pay your sin debt through good deeds… It cannot be done. Instead, surrender to Jesus who paid our debt for us.  GROW – Learn to be a person of generous mercy, sharing what you have been given in Jesus.  Ephesians 4:32 – Forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven you. |