

T H E  
U N E X P E C T E D  
A N I N V I T A T I O N T O T H E N A R R O W R O A D

## UNEXPECTED FORGIVENESS

*Matthew 18:21-35*

People not walking in forgiveness...

will pay a price

are unable to choose patience

People walking in forgiveness...

choose to bear the cost

are able to have compassion

**Getting Started:** What would you do to celebrate if all your debts were unexpectedly and immediately cancelled?

**Digging In:** Make ten observations of this parable Jesus tells. How does this parable (vs 23-35) relate to the preceding verses (15-22)? Compare the two servants' debts, their pleas and the decision about their case. What do you make of the difficult verses (32-35) at the end of this parable? What do these verses (Col 3:13; Eph 4:32; Lk 11:4; Mt 6:14-15; Mk 11:25) say about the seriousness of forgiveness? Do you think a person cannot forgive and continue to walk with God? From this parable, write out a principle for dealing with someone who has offended you.

**Living It Out:** What is your most common response when someone wrongs you: (a) quickly confront? (b) ignore? (c) look to get even? (d) withdraw? (e) tell others? (f) forgive? (g) hold a grudge? (h) pray? Which of the following is most difficult for you to do: (a) admit wrong and ask for forgiveness? (b) give forgiveness? (c) forgive again and again? How has God's forgiveness affected your life and your willingness to forgive (Is 53:4-6; Lk 23:34; Col 2:13-14; 1 Pet 3:18; 1 Jn 1:9)? How have you paid the price of unforgiveness in your life? Who do you need to forgive today? Will you?