

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Who ever has ears, let them hear. ¶ The man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over that one sheep more than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way, your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. ¶ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a man who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand denarii was brought to him. But he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ¶ At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ¶ But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him only a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ ¶ But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ¶ ‘Then the master called the servant in. ‘How ungrateful,’ he said, ‘are you! Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ¶ The kingdom of heaven is

# Once Upon a Time...

**the modern impact of ancient stories**

**PARABLE:**  
***an earthly story***  
***with a heavenly meaning***  
***and a spiritual application***

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

## *God's kingly rule*

**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?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.”**

**“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 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.**

**So the servant fell on his knees,  
imploring him, ‘Have patience with  
me, and I will pay you everything.’  
And out of pity for him, the master  
of that servant released him and  
forgave him the debt.”**

**Matthew 18:21-27 (ESV)**

**MERCY:**  
***the emotion experienced  
in the presence of an affliction  
that has come upon another  
and the action resulting from this  
emotion***

**(EXEGETICAL DICTIONARY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT)**

**But God, being rich in mercy,  
because of the great love with  
which he loved us, even when we  
were dead in our trespasses, made  
us alive together with Christ—  
by grace you have been saved**

**Ephesians 2:4-5 (ESV)**

**So then it depends not on  
human will or exertion, but on  
God, who has mercy.**

**Romans 9:16 (ESV)**

**And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.**

**Matthew 9:35-36 (ESV)**

**“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.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’**

**He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 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.**

**Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’**

**And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”**

**Matthew 18:28-35 (ESV)**

**“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”**

**Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV)**

**For judgment is without mercy to  
one who has shown no mercy.**

**James 2:13 (ESV)**

**“Be merciful, even as your Father  
is merciful.”**

**Luke 6:36 (ESV)**