

## *7. The Unfairness of God*

*[Alternate title: The Grace of God]*

Sometimes it seems that life is unfair. People do not always get what they deserve: some get more than they deserve, others get less. In this passage we meet a servant who trades off the unfairness of his master.

**Read Mt 18:21-35**

1. What is the trigger for Jesus telling this parable?
2. What do you think might have been Peter's response to this parable?
3. In the parable, what could have motivated the other servants to report the unforgiving servant to his master? What do you supposed motivated the unforgiving servant's actions?
4. This parable seems to indicate that life in the kingdom of Heaven does not always seem fair. What is the turning point of the parable? What is Jesus' point?

*The Character of God: Study 7*

5. When God gives another person something they don't deserve, when he is kind towards them when they really deserve punishment, we call it 'unfair'. When God shows the same kindness towards us, we call it 'grace'. How do these statements shape your understanding of Ephesians 2:1-10?

6. [Optional] God's grace towards us cost him dearly (cf. 1 Pet 2:21-24); does grace always have to cost the giver? Why or why not?

7. How, or in what situations, do you see God's grace towards you most clearly?

8. When do you find it hardest to show grace towards someone else? What *should* you do in this situation?

[Optional] How does it feel when you tell someone that you forgive them?"

This week your goal is to meditate and reflect on the unfairness (grace!) of God towards you every day. How do you propose to do this? What will you actually do? What sort of fruit would you like to see develop in your own life as a result of reflecting on the grace of God this week?