**SKIT: THE PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

Theological Reflection (for team members doing skit);

In the story from Matthew 18 the employer was willing to forgive the entire, huge debt [10,000 talents = 150,000 years of work]: slate wiped clean, no record. A great ending to the story would have been many thanks expressed to the ruler by the one forgiven and then going out, spreading the news of the generosity of the ruler. However, that is not what happened. The one forgiven quickly forgets the wonderful gift of debt canceled and for a debt no bigger than a few coins in contrast to the first debt, the forgiven one demands full and immediate payment from someone else! When that was not forthcoming, the second debtor was thrown into prison, per the order of the first employee!

Justice is done. The first debtor is arrested and the story says, the servant will be tortured until all that was owed could be paid! The ruler had forgiven the debt and held nothing against the employee. But what had happened had not been forgotten. If the charity extended had been forgotten, the first debtor would have been allowed to cause a greater injustice: overkill of the debt of the second employee.

[Characters need to be thoroughly familiar with the story in Matthew 18.]

**Characters: Ruler, 1st servant, 2nd servant, assistant to the ruler, 3rd servant**

**Flow of story:**

1. Ruler checking debts with Assistant and sees incredibly huge debt by 1st servant

2. Ruler sends Assistant to get 1st servant

3. Assistant brings in 1st servant and Ruler goes over size of debt; Assistant says will sell 1st servant along with household to pay for debt

4. 1st servant is immediately repentant, on knees, begging for mercy; promising full repayment

5. Ruler grants full pardon of debt

6. 1st servant goes out and runs into 2nd servant who is with 3rd servant

7. 1st servant recalls minuscule debt owed 1st servant by 2nd Servant and gets rough in demanding repayment

8. 2nd servant begs for mercy and promises repayment

9. 1st servant refuses to hear and takes 2nd servant to prison

10. 3rd servant upset, goes and reports to Ruler

11. Ruler sends Assistant to get 1st servant and lowers the boom on 1st servant

12. Ruler hands 1st servant over to prison