

## “Present-Day Parables: The Unforgiving Servant”

by  
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- What** When Alex's job is saved and his debt forgiven by the boss, Alex turns around and demands that a co-worker, Ted, pays him back. Based on the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18.  
**Themes:** Debt, Grace, Mercy
- Who** Bank Director  
Alex  
Chris
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Actors should wear suits/business attire  
Director should have a desk  
If possible, a door could be used to separate the office from the other area.
- Why** Matthew 18
- How** Characters can be played straightforward. Alex should be able to portray a wide range of emotions (repentance to rage) and escalate appropriately over time. When at his most angry, Alex should be on the verge of losing control with appropriate gestures and body language.  
  
Characters can be male or female.
- Time** Approximately 4 minutes

*Alex enters. Director is waiting at his desk.*

**Alex:** Hey boss, you wanted to see me?

**Director:** *(very friendly)* Awesome Alex! How are you my friend? Did you see that game last night?

**Both:** *(making equal animal gesture)* HONEY-BADGERS! *(Laugh together)*

**Director:** *(sitting down)* Have a seat!

**Alex:** *(jovial)* Don't mind if I do. Always a pleasure to sit and chat with the boss. Just hope it's not a chewing out!

**Director:** *(chuckles)* No Alex, that's not what we are here for...

**Alex:** Well then tell me, are you ready to promote me?

**Director:** Alex, we are going to have to let you go.

**Alex:** *(oblivious)* Go where? To the top? That's where we are all headed, my friend!

**Director:** *(more serious)* Alex, your employment is going to be terminated.

**Alex:** *(uneasily trying to make joke)* Oh, Is that all? I thought it was something serious

**Director:** And you owe the company 10 million dollars. So, we have to absorb your severance, leaving you with a debt of 8 million.

**Alex:** *(shocked)* How is that even possible?

**Director:** Alex, you insisted that you be personally and financially responsible for the Hausenberg deal. I tried to warn you...

**Alex:** *(devastated)* Isn't...isn't there something I can do? How am I going to find a job to feed my family AND pay back 8 million dollars?

**Director:** Alex, it's been a rough year. The board is shutting down lots of account. I wish it didn't have to be this...

**Alex:** *(desperate)* What am I going to do? Where will I live? No one will hire me with this in my history! I'll have to sell everything I own just to pay off a fraction! What am I going to tell my wife *(\*or husband if played by a female)*? We will lose everything! How am I going to...?

*Director raises hand to silence Alex.*

**Director:** There might be a way out of this. There's an Executive review policy grandfathered into all foreign contracts. I can make sure you get a free pass this time. I like your heart and I don't like kicking people out of this company.

**Alex:** *(dumbfounded)* You...you mean...

**Director:** *(collecting papers)* I'll get this process moving right now. This one will go away. Get back out there and show them what you can do.

**Alex:** *(shaken)* Thank you sir. I won't let you down again.

*Co-worker Ted enters. Alex stands to exit and runs into Ted.*

**Ted:** Hey Alex! How did it go for ya? I hear it's been bad!

**Alex:** *(trying to cover up his stress)* Hey, Ted. It's all good. Hey man, I've been meaning to ask you...remember that money I lent you awhile back for that down payment you needed?

**Ted:** Oh yeah. I kind of need some more time on that. I mean, with the way they are buckling down on the bonuses. I can give part of it back to you in a few weeks.

**Alex:** *(quickly agitated)* That's not going to work. I need it now.

**Ted:** *(taken aback)* Hey, I don't just have it laying around. I'm sorry, but I need more time

**Alex:** *(getting angry)* I said I need it NOW!

**Ted:** Hey man, just chill. I'm sure we can work out something.

**Alex:** *(becoming hostile)* Yeah, we can work out you pulling out your wallet and giving me the money I need.

**Ted:** *(exasperated but keeping his calm)* Alex, I don't have the money, ok? I'm still trying to get out of a hole and I'll make sure I get it to you soon...

*Director steps into scene but is unnoticed by Alex.*

**Alex:** *(screaming)* I said NOW! I'm not playing with you! I can't believe how irresponsible you are! Do I need to have you arrested for theft? You gave me your word and I am not in the mood to play around!

*Alex continues to berate Ted. Director is watching all of this unbeknownst to Alex, and finally gets Alex's attention.*

**Director:** *(calmly)* Alex. I can't begin to tell you how disappointed I am in your barbaric behavior. After all the mercy you received today, shouldn't you be the first to show compassion? Your job is terminated. There will be no recommendation. You are going to jail for assault, and you will be receiving a lawsuit from the company.

*Alex, shocked and stuttering, is taken away.*

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