

**“The Unforgiving Servant: Broken Phones and Dinosaurs”  
A Present-Day Parable**

by  
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**What** In a bizarre and funny take on Matthew 18 and the unforgiving servant, this modern-day retelling takes place in a hospital and involves cellphones interfering with equipment, causing strange things to happen to patients.

**Themes:** Parable, Debt, Grace, Mercy, Comedy

**Who** Alex  
Chris  
Technician 1  
Technician 2  
Nurse

**When** Present

**Wear (Props)** Alex and Chris are in normal street clothes.  
The Technicians should have a white coat and the Nurse in scrubs.  
There should be a “No Cell Phones” sign hanging prominently in the scene.

**Why** Matthew 18

**How** Alex is naive and nervous. He always stops using his cell phone to listen to the interruptions. All his actions and reactions (until the emotional climax) should portray an awkward and nervous approach to dealing with the accident (similar to but not to the degree of the British character Mr. Bean). The doctors and staff express ample worry to the accidents that occur.

**Time** Approximately 5 minutes

*Alex and Chris enter.*

**Alex:** Ok here you go, my friend. Remember, it's just a routine check. There's nothing to worry about.

**Chris:** Thanks. I'm sure everything will be fine.

*Chris exits into "exam room". Alex looks around, reading the sign. Sits down and pulls out his cell phone.*

**Alex:** Time to get my Fortnite on! I'm about to turn this into a viscous fort hour. *(Starts playing on cell phone)*

**Tech 1:** *(enters)* Nurse, I'm getting some really funny readings. It's like there's some interference. The results said that the patient had three eyes for a minute.

**Nurse:** Sometimes it's because of cell phones, but most of the time, Dr. Dodson moves the microwave so the liquids in the chem lab turn different colors. I'll check. *(Exits and returns after a moment)*

**Alex:** *(moves cell phone so it is not as noticeable but continues playing)* This Dr. Dodson sounds like a real trouble-maker.

*After about 10 seconds Technician 2 enters.*

**Tech 2:** Nurse! *(Nurse enters)* The equipment is malfunctioning! There's some kind of interference and the equipment is causing my patient to behave like a Velociraptor or...or...something! *(Looks back over shoulder)* He is using his big toe to scratch the observation glass! *(Exits)*

*Alex listens and becomes increasingly uncomfortable.*

**Nurse:** *(raising her voice out of concern)* If anyone has a cell phone, please turn it off! I can't find the microwave! Has anyone seen Dr. Dodson? Is he at the Roller Derby again?

**Tech 1:** *(enters)* Nurse! We have a problem! The equipment is leaking coolant! The CT machine looks like a giant Cheerio bobbing around! *(Exits)*

*Nurse starts to make call on phone. Alex slides cell phone into pocket.*

**Tech 2:** *(enters; yelling)* Nurse! There is a power outage in our hall! Dr. Dodson knocked over the syringe table. He's like a giant Porcupine-Godzilla mix! *(Looks back over shoulder)* Like a Dr. Porcu-Zilla

*Alex pulls cell phone back out of pocket and turns it off.*

**Tech 1:** *(enters more calmly)* The interference seems to have stopped. But there's extensive damage...and injuries. We have to find out what caused all that. Dr. Dodson is defibrillating the microwave in a demonstration of his innocence.

**Nurse:** I suppose I'll start the paperwork. How much do we estimate?

**Tech 2:** Well, the damage to the machinery and building, plus the injuries to patients is in the millions. That's if Mr. Dinosaur doesn't sue us for psychological damage. *(Pauses)* How does a 75-year-old man get his foot that high?

**Tech 1:** We could be talking about a billion dollars. *(Alex grabs his heart as if he feels pain)* Now we have to just investigate the cause.

**Chris:** *(enters)* Alex! What happened?

**Alex:** *(concerned)* Are you ok?

**Chris:** Yeah! Are YOU ok? You had such a great score and then it's like you just stopped play—

*Alex puts hand over Chris's mouth and hold up finger to silence Chris.*

*Technicians and Nurse glance at each other, then approach Alex. Alex quickly hands the cellphone to Chris.*

**Nurse:** Excuse me, were you using a cellular device?

**Alex:** *(terrified)* I'm sorry, I'm not a doctor. I don't understand all these super smart terms.

**Tech 1:** Sir, did you have a cell phone in use a few minutes ago?

**Alex:** *(stuttering)* Well, I did...use...a...thing. But I don't know if it was a cell phone per se. It was like a...thing...that some use...to make calls through...

**Nurse:** *(abruptly)* Were you playing that Fortnite game?

*Alex is shocked and doesn't respond.*

**Tech 2:** You do realize that you put several patients and even poor Dr. Dodson at risk?

**Tech 1:** And you, because you did not obey the posted sign, are legally obligated to cover the expenses of the ruined equipment and the medical costs of the patients affected?

**Alex:** *(whispering)* I don't have that much money... *(gulps)* I'm on my grandparents' Netflix account I...

**Chris:** YOU caused all that?

**Alex:** I don't... *(realizing what is happening)* No! I can't pay for that! There's no way! I have a wife *(\*husband if played by a female)* and kids to feed! It's too much! Please! I can't pay for that! I'll be in debt forever! There has to be...insurance! You have insurance on all that right?

**Tech 1:** Sir, because of your negligence, the hospital incurred terrible costs. Someone must pay!

**Alex:** I know! But I can't...I don't have any way to do that!

**Tech 2:** Actually, I think there's a way to file a claim. As long as the patients don't press charges.

**Nurse:** There's no permanent damage done, 'cept maybe to Dr Dodson, but he wasn't exactly the most stable one to begin with.

**Tech 1:** I guess you're right. We will file under accident, but please pay attention and don't use your cell phone here again.

*Technicians and Nurse exits.*

**Alex:** *(still shocked but relieved some)* I...won't. Thank...thank you

**Chris:** *(surprised as he realizes what happened)* YOU caused all that?

**Alex:** I'm...not sure...

**Chris:** Well, here's your phone— *(drops phone and quickly picks it up to check)* Oh no! The screen's cracked. I'm sorry.

**Alex:** *(very angry)* WHAT?!?!? YOU HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL!

**Chris:** Relax man, I'll help you get it fixed.

**Alex:** It's gonna be like 200 bucks. Are you going to give it to me now?

**Chris:** *(confused)* Are you for real? I just had to cough up a co-pay. I'll help you out, but I don't have it on me.

**Alex:** *(becoming enraged)* You better get it! Right now!

**Chris:** Chill out! Did you even see what just happened? You just walked away from all that mess without paying a dime and now you're going to...

*Alex throws phone at Chris mid-sentence.*

**Alex:** This is about MY phone and YOU did it. Give me the money I need to fix it!

**Chris:** All right, give me a few days!

**Alex:** *(livid and raging)* I said **now!!** *(Grabs Chris's shirt threateningly)*

*Technician 1 & 2 enter to restrain Alex. Nurse enters.*

**Tech 1:** Sir, haven't you caused enough trouble today?

**Alex:** He owes me!

**Tech 2:** And you owe us!

**Alex:** *(shocked into submission)* But I thought you said...

**Tech 1:** Insurance would cover it, but we are going to report this incident too.

**Tech 2:** Making you guilty of assault, destruction of property, sabotage, and I don't even know what else.

**Alex:** I'm sorry!! I just...

**Nurse:** It would have been easier for you to just forgive your friend. After all the trouble you caused, I can't imagine what your debt would have been. And you couldn't forgive a cracked phone screen? If you had given your friend the same compassion we gave you, you wouldn't be here right now. The police are on the way. *(Yells to back)* Dr Dodson! We are going to need a sedative!

*Technician 1 & 2 carry Alex out. Alex screams the entire way out. Nurse and Chris exit, with the Nurse reviewing Alex's injuries.*