



Matthew 18:21-35

- Matt. 18:21 Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”
- Matt. 18:22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.
- Matt. 18:23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.
- Matt. 18:24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.
- Matt. 18:25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.
- Matt. 18:26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, “Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’
- Matt. 18:27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.
- Matt. 18:28 “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’
- Matt. 18:29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’
- Matt. 18:30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.
- Matt. 18:31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.
- Matt. 18:32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, “You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.
- Matt. 18:33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?”
- Matt. 18:34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.
- Matt. 18:35 “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Observations & Discussion

1. Vss. 21-22; Jesus tells Peter that we are to forgive those who sin against us, “*up to seventy times seven.*” Did Jesus mean a literal 490 times, or did He mean something else? What do you think He meant?

2. Vss. 23-30; in this parable Jesus provides us with an example of how forgiveness works. To understand the meaning of the parable we must start by identifying the characters in the parable.

Who does the King represent?

Who does the 1st servant represent?

What does the 1st servant’s debt represent? (hint—figure out how much 10,000 talents is in \$).

Who does the 2nd servant represent?

What does the 2nd servant’s debt represent? (hint—figure what the difference is between the debts.)

How does this parable relate to what Jesus said in vs. 22?

Which of the servants represents **you**?

How are you supposed to apply the lesson of the parable in your life?

3. Vss. 31-35; in the parable we’re told that the wicked servant was, “delivered...to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.” What does that mean? What’s the spiritual truth Jesus is communicating to us?

5. Note that in vs. 35 Jesus makes this parable personal, He directs His instruction to “**you**”! Why can it be so *hard* for us to forgive those who have sinned against us? Why *must* we forgive those who have sinned against us?