
CHAPTER 64

The Need to Forgive

(Matthew 18:21-35) Then Peter came and said to him: “Lord, how many times is my brother to sin against me and am I to forgive him? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him: “I say to you, not up to seven times, but up to 77 times. 23 “That is why the Kingdom of the heavens may be likened to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he started to settle them, a man was brought in who owed him 10,000 talents. 25 But because he did not have the means to pay it back, his master ordered him and his wife and his children and all the things he owned to be sold and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell down and did obeisance to him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything to you.’ 27 Moved with pity at this, the master of that slave let him off and canceled his debt. 28 But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves, who owed him 100 de·nar’i-i, and grabbed him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back whatever you owe.’ 29 So his fellow slave fell down and began to beg him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ 30 However, he was not willing, but he went and had him thrown into prison until he could pay back what he owed. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they became greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all the things that had happened. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him: ‘Wicked slave, I canceled all that debt for you when you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not also have shown mercy to your fellow slave as I showed mercy to you?’ 34 With that his master, provoked to wrath, handed him over to the jailers until he repaid all that he owed. 35 My heavenly Father will also deal with you in the same way if each of you does not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Paragraph 2 on Page 152

(Matthew 18:21) Then Peter came and said to him: “Lord, how many times is my brother to sin against me and am I to forgive him? Up to seven times?”

Paragraph 3 on Page 152

(Matthew 18:22) Jesus said to him: “I say to you, not up to seven times, but up to 77 times.

Paragraph 4 on Page 152

(Matthew 18:26) So the slave fell down and did obeisance to him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay back everything to you.’

Paragraph 5 on Page 152

(Matthew 18:28, 29) But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves, who owed him 100 de·nar’i-i, and grabbed him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back whatever you owe.’ 29 So his fellow slave fell down and began to beg him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

Paragraph 1 on Page 153

(Matthew 18:32-35) Then his master summoned him and said to him: ‘Wicked slave, I canceled all that debt for you when you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not also have shown mercy to your fellow slave as I showed mercy to you?’ 34 With that his master, provoked to wrath, handed him over to the jailers until he repaid all that he owed. 35 My heavenly Father will also deal with you in the same way if each of you does not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Paragraph 2 on Page 153

(Matthew 6:12) and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

◇What prompts Peter to ask about forgiving his brother, and why may he consider it generous to forgive someone seven times?

◇How does the king’s response to his slave’s plea for mercy differ from the way that slave deals with his fellow slave?

◇What lesson should we learn from Jesus’ illustration?
