

# Matthew 18:21-35

## New Revised Standard Version

### Forgiveness

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church<sup>[a]</sup> sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven<sup>[b]</sup> times.

### The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents<sup>[c]</sup> was brought to him; <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii;<sup>[d]</sup> and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister<sup>[e]</sup> from your heart.”

### Footnotes

1. [Matthew 18:21](#) Gk *if my brother*
2. [Matthew 18:22](#) Or *seventy times seven*
3. [Matthew 18:24](#) A talent was worth more than fifteen years’ wages of a laborer
4. [Matthew 18:28](#) The denarius was the usual day’s wage for a laborer
5. [Matthew 18:35](#) Gk *brother*