

Matthew 18:21-35 **Forgive – Seventy times Seven**

How many times shall I forgive, up to seven times?

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?"

Seventy times Seven

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Illustration

23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 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. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 27 "Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. 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!' 29 "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 30 "And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 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. 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. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

Conclusion

35 So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ Peter wants to know how many times a person is expected to forgive another for offences he feels are sins against himself.
 - ✧ Being generous, Peter suggests up to seven times.
- ✚ Jesus increased the suggested limit seventy times to 490 which would make it difficult to keep track of without writing down each time at each occurrence.
 - ✧ That would require a deliberate intention from the start of reaching that total so one would be able to not forgive.
- ✚ Jesus then gave an illustration of willingness to forgive that represents God's willingness to forgive and contrasted it with man's unwillingness to forgive.
 - ✧ Bottom line was that God is willing to forgive if we are willing to forgive by going back to His Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you." [Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31]
 - ✧ If we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us. [Matthew 6:12, 14-15, 18:35, Mark 11:25-26, James 2:13]
 - ✧ Not only that, but our forgiveness must be from the heart in earnest reality. [Matthew 18:35]
 - ✧ In Luke we learn that the willingness to forgive comes on the basis of repentance. [Luke 17:3-4]
 - ✧ We need to take the man's word that he repents, but God knows the heart.

