

What God Says About ... Giving and Receiving Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

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First Wednesday

Matthew 18:21 (ESV)

Then Peter came up and said to Him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

Matthew 18:22 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Giving and receiving forgiveness is ...

1. An Obedience Issue

Matthew 18:22 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

2. A Grace Issue

Matthew 18:23 (ESV)

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

Matthew 18:24 (ESV)

When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

Matthew 18:25 (ESV)

And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.

Matthew 18:26 (ESV)

So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’

Matthew 18:27 (ESV)

And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

Romans 5:20b (ESV)

... where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

3. A Relationship Issue

Matthew 18:28 (ESV)

But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'

Matthew 18:29 (ESV)

So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'

Matthew 18:30 (ESV)

He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

Matthew 18:31 (ESV)

When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

Matthew 18:32 (ESV)

Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

Matthew 18:33 (ESV)

And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'

Matthew 18:34 (ESV)

And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.

Matthew 18:35 (ESV)

So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'"

Luke 7:47 (ESV)

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.'"