



**CRITICAL  
QUESTIONS!**





## Matthew 18:21-22

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

# Text Observations

- Peter thought he was being generous when he said 7. Common Rabbi teaching said 3.
- Jesus helps Peter realize his underestimation of God's mercy. Forgiveness is not to be limited.

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## Matthew 18:23-27

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup> “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ <sup>27</sup> The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

# Text Observations

- Debt owed amounted to 275,000 years of work for the average worker
- The debt of our sin is not one we can ever repay
- If we ask for God's forgiveness he freely gives it even though we have done nothing to deserve it.

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## Matthew 18:28-31

<sup>28</sup> “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

<sup>29</sup> “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

<sup>30</sup> “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

# Text Observations

- The debt the servant owed was 100 days of labor for the average worker
- The amount God has forgiven us of far outweighs whatever we have to forgive others for.
- This is not to say that the debt is insignificant, but in light of the mercy extended to us we should extend mercy to others

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## Matthew 18:32-35

<sup>32</sup> “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’ <sup>33</sup> ‘Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ <sup>34</sup> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup> “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

# Text Observations

- How can we expect God to forgive us of so much while holding back forgiveness from others
- If we are truly followers of Jesus our lives should be marked by forgiveness

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# Becoming more Forgiving

1. Remind yourself of all that you have been forgiven of.
2. Look at the wrongs committed against you in light of what you have been forgiven of
3. Ask God who is full of mercy to help you show mercy to others
4. Work through forgiving others from your heart
5. Live out that forgiveness

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# Amish Response to School Shooting (2006)

1. Visited widow of the shooter to offer forgiveness
2. Widow was invited by the victims families to attend the children's funerals
3. Requested relief money for the families be shared with the shooters widow and children
4. Dozens of Amish attended the funeral of the shooter

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## Quote from article on Amish Story

*Their actions not only witness that the Christian God is a God of forgiveness, but they actively created the conditions in which forgiveness could happen. In the most straightforward way, they embarked on imitating Christ: "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do." In acting as Christ, they did not speculate on forgiveness. They forgave. And forgiveness is, as Christianity teaches, the prerequisite to peace. We forgive because God forgave us; in forgiving, we participate in God's dream of reconciliation and shalom.*

- Diana Butler Bass -

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# Thinking it Through

1. Think this week about how much God has forgiven you of.
2. Who is someone you need to extend forgiveness too?

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