

## The Unforgiving Debtor



MEMORY VERSE: Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?  
Matthew 18:33



MATTHEW 18:21-27 Mercy and Compassion

1. What did Peter ask Jesus? How did Jesus answer?
2. What do you think Jesus means by "seventy times seven?"
3. In the parable, what did the servant deserve? What did the king do instead?
4. Why did the master forgive his debt?



MATTHEW 18:28-30 An Unforgiving Heart

5. How do you feel when someone forgives you?
6. Why do you think the forgiven servant acted this way?
7. What did the forgiven servant do to his fellow servant who owed him money?



MATTHEW 18:31-35 A Forgiving Heart

- 8. Why were some of the other servants so upset?
- 9. Why was the king angry with the forgiven servant? What did he do about it?
- 10. What do you think Jesus wants us to learn from this parable?

**BELIEVE THE TRUTH**

Forgiving someone can be very hard. Sometimes, we would rather hold a grudge than forgive someone who hurt us. It helps if we remember that Jesus forgives us for every single evil thing we have done or thought, even though we don't deserve it. Jesus wants us to forgive others because He has forgiven us, not because they deserve it.

**PRAY THE TRUTH**

Dear God,  
Thank You for forgiving me over and over again. Help me to have pity and compassion on people the way the king did. Help me to understand that my own life is better when I forgive.  
Amen.

**WALK IN TRUTH**



Is it hard for you to forgive?

Is there someone you need to forgive?



## Matthew 18:21-35

### Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor

#### Matthew 18:21-27

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!”

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. <sup>24</sup> In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. <sup>25</sup> He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold — along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned — to pay the debt.

<sup>26</sup> “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’<sup>27</sup> Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

#### Matthew 18:28-30

<sup>28</sup> “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

<sup>29</sup> “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. <sup>30</sup> But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

#### Matthew 18:31-35

<sup>31</sup> “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

<sup>35</sup> “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.