



CLG

HOW MANY TIMES SHALL I FORGIVE?

MATTHEW 18:21-35

PS IMELDA MESA

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

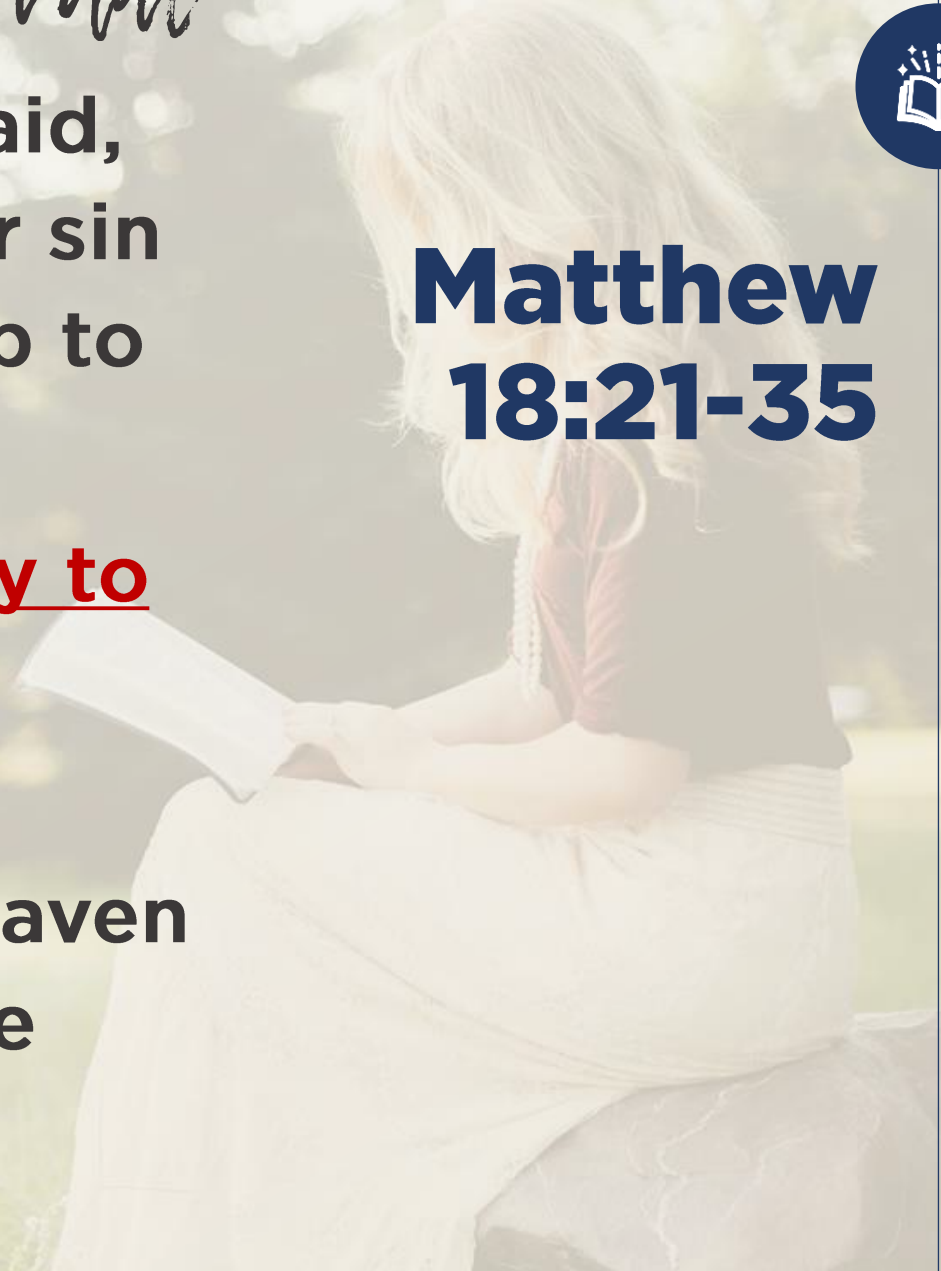
21 Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

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

23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.



**Matthew
18:21-35**



The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him.

25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back



Matthew
18:21-35

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant everything.'

27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 "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.

Matthew
18:21-35



The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

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

30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.



Matthew
18:21-35

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’

34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.



Matthew
18:21-35

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

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

**Matthew
18:21-35**



I. Unlimited Forgiveness (18:21-27)

- This illustrates the forgiveness we receive from God.
- Our sins resemble a massive debt that we cannot repay on our own.
- In His mercy, God has completely forgiven us through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ.



II. Forgiveness Denied (18:23-31)

- How can we demand payment for wrongs done against us when we have been forgiven so much?
- Forgiveness is not a feeling, it's a choice.



III. Forgiveness Canceled (18:32-33)

- Forgiveness is like a circle - what you give is what you get.
- To be loved, we must love others. The same thing is true of forgiveness. To be forgiven, you must forgive.



IV. From Parable to Practice (18:28-30)

- **Why forgive?**

(Matthew 6:14-15, Luke 17:1-4,
John 20:21-23)

- A command (Romans 12:19)
- The example of Jesus (Luke 23:34)
- To prosper spiritually (Matthew 18:25)
- To be a testimony (Colossians 3:13)



IV. From Parable to Practice (18:28-35)

- **Grace given, grace received**
 - Cultivate a heart of gratitude
 - Practice empathy



IV. From Parable to Practice (18:28-35)



- **Getting rid of unforgiveness**
 - Acknowledge its presence in our hearts
 - Actively seek to reconcile – Matthew 18:15-17
 - Make it a lifestyle
 - A divine mandate, not optional (Romans 12:19)

15 “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’

17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.



Matthew 18:15-17

Do not take revenge, my dear friends but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord.



Romans
12:19



Pray with us

For “whoever calls on
the name of the Lord
shall be saved.”

ROMANS 10:13



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