



THE PARABLES OF JESUS

²¹ 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?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

Matthew 18:21-23 (NIV)

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 wife 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 everything.'

Matthew 18:24-26 (NIV)

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

Matthew 18:27-29 (NIV)

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. 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.'

Matthew 18:30-32 (NIV)

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

Matthew 18:33-35 (NIV)

A stack of several books is shown, with the top book's cover prominently displayed. The books are in various shades of green and brown. The word "Forgiveness" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font across the center of the top book's cover. The background is a dark, solid green.


Forgiveness

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive (ἀφίημι) my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Matthew 18:21 (NIV)

35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive (ἀφίημι) your brother or sister from your heart."

Matthew 18:35 (NIV)



ἀφίημι (aphiēmi)
to let go; to leave behind;
to drop a matter; to cancel; to forgive

21 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?**" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but **seventy-seven times.**

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)



Question:

Why should we extend unlimited forgiveness
to someone who sins against us?

Question:

Why should we extend unlimited forgiveness to someone who sins against us?

Answer:

Because God extends unlimited forgiveness to us.

Scene 1: A king forgives a servant a gigantic debt

Scene 2: The servant does not forgive a fellow servant's smaller debt

Scene 3: The king confronts the servant

Conclusion: Jesus warns the disciples about the consequences of being unforgiving

Scene 1 – A king forgives a servant a gigantic debt

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

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 wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

Matthew 18:23–25 (NIV)

²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled (ἀφίημι) the debt and let him go.

Matthew 18:26-27 (NIV)

Scene 2 – The servant does not forgive a fellow servant's smaller debt

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 18:28 (NIV)

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.

Matthew 18:29-30 (NIV)

Scene 3 – The king confronts the servant

³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled (ἀφίημι) all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’

Matthew 18:31-32 (NIV)

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 18:33-34 (NIV)

Conclusion: Jesus warns his disciples about the consequences of being unforgiving

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

Matthew 18:35 (NIV)

¹² And forgive (ἀφίημι) us our debts, as we also have forgiven (ἀφίημι) our debtors.

Matthew 6:12 (NIV)

A stack of several books is shown, with the rightmost book having a bright green cover. The other books have various shades of brown and tan. The text is overlaid on the books.

Why is forgiving someone who has hurt us so hard?

A stack of several books is shown, with a green book cover visible on the right side. The books are slightly offset, creating a sense of depth. The background is a dark green gradient.

Why is forgiving someone who has hurt us so hard?

It is hard to forgive someone
because we have a deep desire for justice.

A stack of papers and folders in shades of green and brown, with the text "Forgiveness is not:" overlaid in white.

Forgiveness is not:

A stack of several books is shown against a dark green background. The books have various colored covers, including shades of brown, tan, and green. The text is overlaid on the books.

Forgiveness is not:

Forgetting

A stack of several books is shown against a dark green background. The books have various colored covers, including shades of brown, tan, and green. The text is overlaid on the books.

Forgiveness is not:

Forgetting

Reconciling

A stack of several books is shown against a dark green background. The books have various colored covers, including shades of brown, tan, and a prominent green cover on the right side. The text is overlaid on the books.

Forgiveness is not:

Forgetting
Reconciling
Conditional

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

Matthew 18:27 (NIV)

The image features a stack of papers and folders in various shades of green and brown. The papers are layered, with some showing a ribbed texture. The text "How do I forgive?" is centered in white on the topmost paper.

How do I forgive?



How do I forgive?

I give up my right to get even.

How do I forgive?

I **give up** my right to get even.
I **stop** dehumanizing them.

How do I forgive?

I **give up** my right to get even.

I **stop** dehumanizing them.

I **begin** to wish them goodwill.

How do I forgive?

I **give up** my right to get even.

I **stop** dehumanizing them.

I **begin** to wish them goodwill.

I **repeat** this practice over and over again.

How do I forgive?

I **give up** my right to get even.

I **stop** dehumanizing them.

I **begin** to wish them goodwill.

I **repeat** this practice over and over again.

I **get help**.

How do I forgive?

I **give up** my right to get even.

I **stop** dehumanizing them.

I **begin** to wish them goodwill.

I **repeat** this practice over and over again.

I **get help**.

I **remember** what God has done for me.

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

Matthew 18:26 (NIV)