

Unfathomable Forgiveness

Scripture Reading — Matthew 18:21-35

*“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”
—Matthew 18:21 —*

Exaggeration can be funny. Jesus once talked about having a plank in your eye (Matthew 7:3-5), and his listeners probably broke out in laughter. Similarly, when Jesus described the debt of the first man in today’s parable, the exaggeration would have been a jaw dropper. Ten thousand talents would have weighed about 300 metric tons and would have amounted to 200,000 years of a day laborer’s wages! The crowd knew this debt could never be repaid.

But the king forgives the debt! Instead of losing everything, the debtor is free! He can start life over again, unshackled from debt and worry.

Similarly, Christ’s forgiveness frees us from anxiety, remorse, and guilt. We are no longer in debt for our sin.

Jesus’ parables are like a window and a mirror. The first half of this parable offers us a window into the kingdom of God. Forgiveness is absolute and unlimited. But the window transforms into a mirror when we gaze into our own souls and discover how unlike God we are. Even after experiencing unfathomable forgiveness, the servant would not forgive the tiny debt owed him by another.

The parable began with a question: “Shall I forgive ... up to seven times?” Jesus shows we should forgive so often that we lose track, because God has completely forgiven us.

Grace gives birth to grace. Is there anyone you need to forgive today?

Prayer

Lord, thank you for your freeing forgiveness. Create in me a new heart like yours. Amen.

Devotion topics: [Christianity](#), [Doctrine](#), [Forgiveness](#), [Discipleship](#), [Grace](#), [God](#)

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