



Life Guide

Applying God's Word to Life

How can I forgive you? October 1, 2017

(Matthew 18:21-35)

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he 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. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents 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 “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 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 denarii. 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 you 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 greatly distressed 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. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master turned 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 from your heart.”

1. Agree/Disagree: I am mostly a forgiving person.
2. How have you tried to teach your children about forgiveness, or how did your parents teach you about forgiveness?
3. The context of Matthew 18 is important. Summarize the beginning of the chapter (the Gospel reading from last week) and explain the connection to this sermon text.
4. Agree/Disagree: Peter’s question came from a legalistic place – hoping to set a limit on forgiveness.
5. How do the two amounts owed in the parable help us understand God’s forgiveness and also our own?
6. How would you respond to the person who felt like forgiving someone gives the impression that what they did was not a big deal?
7. In what way is holding onto wrongs committed against us like holding onto a piece of metal with electricity running through it?
8. What is the real spiritual danger that comes from failing to forgive others? What is the cure for this?