

The servant who was forgiven the unpayable debt is not grateful to the king. Instead of going out and forgiving the little debt a fellow servant owes him, the servant who was forgiven the great debt by the king demands that his fellow servant pay the little debt.

Because he was not willing to forgive the debt of his fellow servant, the king took the man he had forgiven and had him thrown into prison where he was tortured for the rest of his life. If we do not forgive others, God won't forgive us. When we forgive, it does not earn us a place in the Kingdom of Heaven, it is evidence that we already have a place in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus then tells a story where a king forgives a servant who owes him an unpayable debt. This reminds us of how God forgives the unpayable debt of our sin when we believe in and follow Jesus.

Matthew 18:21-35

21 "Then Peter came to him and asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 22 'No, not seven times,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven.' 23 '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. 24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. 25 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. 26 'But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' 27 Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. 28 '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.

When Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive someone who sins against him, Jesus replies "seventy times seven times." This means we are supposed to forgive endlessly, with the help of Jesus.

29 "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. 30 But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. 31 "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. 32 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. 33 Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' 34 Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. 35 "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, we forgive others their debt against him since Jesus forgave our debt against him.

# Story Time with Jesus

Lesson Five

## The Parable of The Unforgiving Servant

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