

Forgive the Offence!
Matthew 18:21-35
8/10/25

I. There are different thoughts about forgiveness.

A. They thought forgiveness should be limited.

****Matthew 18:21** *"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?'"*

B. Jesus taught forgiveness should have no limits.

Matthew 18:22 *"Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'"*

Colossians 3:13 *"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."*

II. There is a parable teaching about forgiveness!

A. The servant had a debt he couldn't pay.

Matthew 18:23 *"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."*

Matthew 18:25 *"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 18:26 *"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'"*

B. The servant had a debt someone else paid.

Matthew 18:27 *"The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go."*

C. This servant was owed a debt and he made them pay!

Matthew 18:28 “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.”

Matthew 18:29 “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.”

Matthew 18:31 “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.’”

Matthew 18:33 “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.”

Matthew 18:35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

How can we work through an offence?

A. We should remember God forgave us.

Ephesians 1:7 “In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.”

B. We should react to any offence with fervent prayer.

Numbers 12:13 “So Moses cried out to the LORD, “O God, please heal her!”

Luke 23:34a “Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”

Acts 7:60 “Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he said this, he fell asleep.”

Matthew 6:44b “... pray for those who persecute you.”

C. We receive strength from the Holy Spirit to forgive.

Galatians 5:22 “The fruit of the Spirit is love”

I Corinthians 13:5b “Love ... keeps no records of wrongs.”

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!”

D. We should respond with forgiveness when offended.

Ephesians 4:32 “... forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Matthew 6:12 “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”

Matthew 25:40 “... Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me.”

*****Romans 12:19** “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge, I will repay,” says the Lord.”