

**The Business Of Forgiveness**  
**The Parable Of The Unmerciful Servant**  
**Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)**

**Matthew 18:21-35** 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?"<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."<sup>23</sup> "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants."<sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him.<sup>25</sup> 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.<sup>26</sup> "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'<sup>27</sup> The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.<sup>28</sup> "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.<sup>29</sup> "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'<sup>30</sup> "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.<sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.<sup>32</sup> "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.'<sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'<sup>34</sup> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.<sup>35</sup> "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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**Matthew 6:12-15** And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ....<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.<sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

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**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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**2 Corinthians 5:21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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C.S. Lewis - "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

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