

FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:21-35

Forgiveness is one of those words that's more talked about than done. It is something that we quickly want others to give us but we are hesitant to give to others. We read in the Word of God about the parable of the unforgiving servant but we fail to realize that we are reading about ourselves. In Matthew 18:21, Peter asks Jesus how many times he shall forgive his brother. Up to seven Times? He very well could have been reflecting back when Jesus teaches about forgiveness in Luke 17:4 "And if he sins against you seven times in a day and seven times in a day returns to you saying, 'I repent', you shall forgive him." (NKJV). Peter made the mistake of focusing on the number seven. Jesus was saying that we should forgive our brothers every time. He uses the number seven which is the number of completion. Just as we are completely forgiven we shall completely forgive. Jesus tells Peter, "I do not say to you up to seven times but up to seventy times seven... (NKJV) . In other words just keep on forgiving.

Jesus then proceeds to tell about a servant who owes his master ten thousand talents. Some say a talent was worth about six thousand denarii. We know from Matthew 20:2 that a denarius was one days' wage. So, ten thousand talents would be sixty million days' wage. This was a debt that the servant would never be able to pay. The master ended up forgiving the servant of his debt. Then we see where the servant goes out and finds someone that owes him a small amount. Instead of being merciful he throws him into prison. When the master finds out about the servant's merciless act he delivers him to the torturers.

God forgave us of a debt that we could never pay. We must remember that when someone sins against us. God had every right to cast each of us in hell. So the next time we feel like we have a right to give somebody a piece of our mind, let's remember that even though God had every right to condemn us, He chose to forgive us. I pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit we become more forgiving as Christ forgave us.