

## January 28th – The Danger of Unforgiveness

*“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”  
(Matt. 18:35)*

Have you ever wondered how many times you should be willing to forgive someone who has wronged you? If so, you’re in good company because Peter wondered the same thing – “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” (Matt. 18:21). Peter probably thought he was being gracious because the rabbis taught that you only had to forgive an offender up to three times.

Jesus answered not seven times, but “up to seventy times seven” (Matt. 18:22). Of course, Jesus didn’t intend for us to keep an account of forgiveness up to 490 times. He used hyperbole to teach that we should always be willing to forgive someone who is genuinely repentant. He then used a parable to make the point. He said there once was a king who was settling accounts with his servants. He found one servant who owed ten thousand talents – about 2 billion in today’s dollars!!

The king could’ve put his servant in debtor’s prison, but instead he chose to forgive the debt. Afterwards, that same servant found a fellow servant who owed him 100 denarii – about \$3,200 – almost nothing in comparison to what he had been forgiven. Ironically, the servant refused to forgive the debt of his friend. When the king found out, he was enraged and delivered the wicked servant to the torturers. The point – it’s very selfish and dangerous to be unforgiving when we’ve been forgiven so much! If someone has asked your forgiveness, grant them forgiveness today!