

TORTURED

The authenticity of our faith
in God would be demonstrated
by our love for others.

Jesus offers no such cover!

...“Lord, **how often** should I forgive someone who sins against me?

Matthew 18:21 NLT

Forgiveness

Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? **Seven times?**”

Matthew 18:21 NLT

“No, not seven times,” Jesus
replied, “but **seventy times seven!**”

Matthew 18:22 NLT

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were **outraged** and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“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 18:32 NIV

Shouldn't you have had **mercy** on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be **tortured**, until he should pay back all he owed.

Matthew 18:33-34 NIV

This is no fictitious tale, like some pirate who tortured people behind a secret door. No, Jesus says God personally will allow those who refuse to forgive others to be tortured. What in the world does that mean? The Greek term from which torturers is translated is a verb meaning "to torment"—a frightening thought.

But here in Matthew 18:34–35, Jesus refers to tormentors—a noun, not a verb. He is saying the one who refuses to forgive, the Christian who harbors grudges, bitter feelings toward another, will be turned over to torturous thoughts, feelings of misery, and agonizing unrest within.

Chuck Swindoll

“That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to **forgive** your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Matthew 18:35 NIV

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

Matthew 5:23 NIV

leave your gift there in front of the altar. **First** go and be reconciled to them; **then** come and offer your gift.

And forgive us our debts, as **we**
also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:12 NIV

Forgiven people forgive people.

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **But** if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:14,15 NIV

“But to you who are listening I say:
Love your **enemies**, do good to
those who hate you, bless those
who curse you, pray for those who
mistreat you.

Matthew 6:27,28 NIV

Forgiveness is always right and
always best...no matter what.

Joseph

When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they **hated** him and could **not speak a kind word** to him.

Genesis 37:4 NIV

The LORD was **with Joseph** so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.

Genesis 39:2 NIV

But when all goes well with you,
remember me and show me
kindness; mention me to Pharaoh
and get me out of this prison.

Genesis 40:14 NIV

I was **forcibly** carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have **done nothing to deserve** being put in a dungeon.”

Genesis 40:15 NIV

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 50:20 NIV

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Ephesians 4:31 NIV

be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, **just as** in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 NIV

Those who have freely received
mercy from God, have no right to
withhold it from others.