

Jesus Teaches When to Forgive

Narrator: *Peter came to Jesus and said,*

Peter: *Lord, when my friend sins against me, how often should I forgive him? Up to seven times?*

Narrator: *Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to 70 times seven.” Then Jesus told a story to illustrate his point. He said, “Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.” A servant who owed the king lots of money was brought before him. The servant was not able to pay so the master said,*

Master: *(pointing to the servant) “You and your whole family will be sold to pay for the debt!”*

Narrator: *Then the servant fell down before him and said,*

Servant 1: *(fall down at the Master’s feet and beg) “Master, give me some more time and I will pay you all I owe.”*

Narrator: *The master was moved with compassion and released him and forgave his debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him some money and he grabbed him by the throat and said,*

Servant 1: *(slowly say with anger in your voice) “Pay me what you owe!”*

Narrator: *Then the fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him saying,*

Servant 2: *(falls down in front of Servant 1 and begs) “Give me some more time and I will pay you all I owe.”*

Narrator: *But the first servant would not give him more time – he went out and threw him in prison. So when the other servants saw what had been done, they told the master all about it. The master called the servant to him and said,*

Master: *(say with anger as you point to the servant) “You wicked servant! I forgave your debt because you begged me. You should have the same compassion for your fellow servant.”*

Narrator: *The master was angry and sent him to be punished until he could pay his debt. When Jesus ended the story He said, “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”*