

# Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

## In the Bible: Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus was teaching his disciples in Capernum. They asked Jesus many questions, and Jesus replied to each one of them patiently.

One of the disciples, Peter, asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong against me? Only seven times?"

Jesus answered Peter;  
*Not just seven times, but seventy-seven!*

*The Kingdom of heaven is like the king who wanted to settle the outstanding debts with his servants. One servant owed him thousands of dollars. When he*

*came before the king, he told the king that he could not pay.*

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant fact:

We owe God our lives because of our sin. Jesus paid the debt for us. We only have to accept the fact He did that, and God cancels our debt forever.

*The king became angry and said that the man, his wife, his children, and all that he owned must be sold to pay for the debt he owed.*

*The servant immediately fell to his knees and begged, "Oh King, please be patient with me, I will pay back everything I owe."*

*The king had mercy on the servant, cancelled his debt, and let him go free!*

*When the servant left the king's presence, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a few dollars. The servant grabbed his friend by the neck and choked him.*

*"Pay back what you owe me!" he hollered.*

*The friend begged him, "Please have mercy on me. Be patient, I will pay back all that I owe you!"*

*But the servant would not listen. He had his friend thrown in jail until he could repay the debt. Some of the other servants overheard what had happened, and told the king what the forgiven servant had done. The king became exceedingly angry and summoned the forgiven servant.*

*"You miserable servant!" he hollered. "I forgave all*

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant fact:

In Genesis 4:24, Lamech states that "if Cain is avenged seven times, Lamech is avenged seventy-seven times." Notice the contrast between the Old testament usage and the New testament usage - Jesus emphasizes forgiveness, where Lamech emphasizes revenge.

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant fact:

Under the Old Testament Law, debt could be paid by offering to sell oneself as a slave. Even though God attached stipulations to such transactions (for instance, the individual was to be treated like a hired hand, and it was only for a specified period of time), the practice seemed to be abused.

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fact:

Earlier in Matthew, Jesus plainly states that if we forgive men who wrong us, God will forgive us when we sin. But if we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us (Matthew 6:14&15)

*your debts and set you free because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have done the same for your friend?"*

*The king turned the servant over to the jailers to be beaten until he could repay the debt that was owed him.*

*This is how my Father will treat everyone who does not truly forgive someone that wrongs them.*