**Week of July 1, 2018**

**The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant**

21Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

22Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+18:21-35&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23750a)]

23“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+18:21-35&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23752b)] was brought to him. 25Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+18:21-35&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23756c)] He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

29“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

30“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

**Understanding of the Scripture**

In this week’s scripture Jesus show us how we can fall into the trap of not forgiving others who may have did us wrong. Forgiveness is a key spiritual principle that Jesus teach those who follow and he led by example of this when he was put to death.

During Jesus ministry many people followed him. In today’s scripture Jesus is teaching his followers and all believer today that it is very important to forgive. The question was asked of Jesus, how many time should I forgive my brother? The tradition at the time was seven (7) times but Jesus expanded it more by saying seventy – seven times. What Jesus was explaining to his disciples and all that follows him was that there is no limit on God’s forgiveness of us and we should not have limits. To make his message clear Jesus spoke on the parable (story) of a man who owed the King a lot of money. He asked the King for mercy because he could not pay and the King granted him mercy. However that same man upon leaving the King went and demanded payment from someone that owed him money (a far lesser amount). When the King heard of it he called them man and scolded him for being without compassion and forgiveness. The King eventually demanded payment and put the man in jail. Jesus emphasis that if we do not have compassion and forgiveness to others that we can face that the same type of consequences with God. This parable was not discussed in a manner to resolve or excuse a person from a debt that they have created but it is about our compassion and how we treat others.

