



LENT: Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Matthew 18:21-35 The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him saying, ‘Pay what you owe’. So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me and I will pay you’. He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ and in anger his master delivered him to the jailers until he should pay all his debt.

So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Word of the Week

We listen to Jesus tell a parable about forgiveness and the importance of being reconciled with others. Lent is a time for us to reflect on our lives and our relationships. It is a time to seek forgiveness for our wrongdoings and to forgive those who have wronged us. This parable challenges us to receive forgiveness but also to give it freely and this can be a hard thing to do.

The parable highlights the difference between the forgiveness shown by the master and the lack of forgiveness shown by the servant. We know that God will forgive us our sins against Him – this parable supports that as we see the master forgiving the huge debts of the servant when he pleads for mercy.

The servant however cannot accept that he is owed a small debt by his servant and struggles to show him mercy. This is like us – we can struggle to show mercy or forgiveness to those who have done us wrong – even when they are small things.

Let us reflect this week on being a better person. Accepting that we can offer forgiveness and also asking for mercy from God.

[Kids Animated Bible - Parable of the Unforgiving Servant - Matthew 18:21-35](#)



Actions for the Week ahead:

- *Take part in the Sacrament of Confession services that are being offered to you.
- *Think seriously about your own life – do you forgive easily or do you need to work on it.
- *Say sorry to anyone you may have been unkind to recently.
- *Don’t hold a grudge against someone.
- *Accept a sorry graciously from someone who may have done you wrong.

Prayers for the Week

Dear Lord,
We come before you in prayer with humble hearts asking for forgiveness for the times we have hurt others through our words and actions. Teach us to acknowledge our mistakes, to make amends, and to restore relationships. Give us courage to say sorry and wisdom to forgive those who have wronged us.

Amen

Dear Lord,
Help us to let go of grudges and bitterness. Mend the broken bonds between friends, classmates and teachers. May we bring peace where there is conflict, bring understanding where there is misunderstanding and bring reconciliation where there is division.

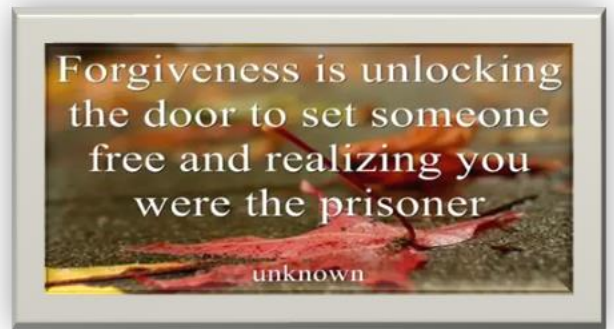
Amen

Dear Lord,
Grant us strength to forgive those who have wronged us. Help us to seek forgiveness when we are at fault. Help us to value friendship over selfishness, kindness over resentment and peace over anger. May our hearts be open to reconciliation in school, in our community and in our homes.

Amen.

Dear Lord,
Fill our school with a spirit of understanding and harmony. Remind us that forgiveness is a gift we give ourselves and others. Let us be courageous in making amends and gentle in receiving apologies. May every act of reconciliation bring us closer to You and each other.

Amen



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lb8pzvnnL20>

[Forgive Me, Lord – A Powerful Original Christian Song of Repentance & Healing](#)



