

## **FORGIVE: BUT HOW?**

Brief Lenten series on Forgiveness - #2

3/16/08

**Text: Matthew 18:21-35**

*“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?”<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.*

*<sup>23</sup>“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.<sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.<sup>25</sup>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.<sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’<sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.<sup>28</sup>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.’<sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’<sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.<sup>31</sup>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.<sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.<sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’<sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.<sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”*

*Q.* – Why does it matter?

*Q.* – How can we forgive?

*Q.* – What happens when we do?

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