

Matthew 18:21-35
Forgiveness

THREE SPHERES OF FORGIVENESS

Relational Forgiveness

“Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how many times could my brother sin against me and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” “I tell you, not as many as seven,” Jesus said to him, “but 70 times seven.” (Matthew 18:21–22, HCSB)

The lesson: We should always forgive one another.

Financial Forgiveness

“For this reason, the kingdom of heaven can be compared to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves.” (Matthew 18:23, HCSB)

THREE CHARACTERS IN THE PARABLE

The Master

“Then the master of that slave had compassion, released him, and forgave him the loan.” (Matthew 18:27, HCSB)

Unforgiving Slave

““But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him 100 denarii. He grabbed him, started choking him, and said, ‘Pay what you owe!’ “At this, his fellow slave fell down and began begging him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ But he wasn’t willing. On the contrary, he went and threw him into prison until he could pay what was owed.” (Matthew 18:28–30, HCSB)

THREE UNFORGIVING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNFORGIVING SLAVE

Violence
Impatience
Vengeful

The Other Unforgiven Slave

“Shouldn’t you also have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?” (Matthew 18:33, HCSB)

The lesson: As God has shown you mercy, you should show the same mercy

Spiritual forgiveness

“So My heavenly Father will also do to you if each of you does not forgive his brother from his heart.” (Matthew 18:35, HCSB)

The lesson: Forgiveness must come from the heart.