

Sermon Discussion (4/26/2026)

Jesus is with the disciples and teaching when Chapter 18 starts. He directs them to humble themselves like children. That can be very hard for us! Jesus then offers them a parable about an unforgiving slave. He is teaching us why we forgive and how to forgive.

Title: How Do We Learn to Forgive?

Points to Consider

1. Be aware of your condition.
2. Forgive with your heart.

Scripture References:

Matthew 18:21–35 HCSB

²¹ 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?” ²² “I tell you, not as many as seven,” Jesus said to him, “but 70 times seven. ²³ For this reason, the kingdom of heaven can be compared to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, one who owed 10,000 talents was brought before him. ²⁵ Since he had no way to pay it back, his master commanded that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt. ²⁶ “At this, the slave fell facedown before him and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷ Then the master of that slave had compassion, released him, and forgave him the loan. ²⁸ “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!’ ²⁹ “At this, his fellow slave fell down and began begging him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ ³⁰ But he wasn’t willing. On the contrary, he went and threw him into prison until he could pay what was owed. ³¹ When the other slaves saw what had taken place, they were deeply distressed and went and reported to their master everything that had happened. ³² “Then, after he had summoned him, his master said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³ Shouldn’t you also have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And his master got angry and handed him over to the jailers to be tortured until he could pay everything that was owed. ³⁵ So My heavenly Father will also do to you if each of you does not forgive his brother from his heart.”

Application Questions

- How do you feel about forgiving someone?
- Do you love it or hate it?
- Is there an example where you have had success or failure?
- Read [Matthew 18:21-22](#):
 - It is hard for us to forgive one time. What do you think it means when Jesus says to forgive 70 times 7?
 - What are examples in the bible of Jesus forgiving?
- Read [Matthew 18:23-27](#):
 - This is the story of a slave that owed much and the master forgave much. How does this apply to your life and your relationship with Jesus?
 - Do you always appreciate the grace you have received?
 - Why or why not?
- Read [Matthew 18:28-29](#):
 - This is a similar situation as the slave had with the master but he acted very differently. Can you relate to this situation?
 - Why is it hard for you to forgive?
 - What gets in the way?
- Read [Matthew 18:32-35](#):
 - Do you think that God is really going to punish you for not offering forgiveness?
 - What does it mean to forgive with your heart?
- Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive?
- Can you decide to try to forgive them and what would be the first step?