

Reading & Prayer

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' ²⁷ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' ³⁰ But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. ³¹ So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. ³² Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. ³⁵ My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-15

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

start reading. read together the main scripture for this study

read the scripture

In reading these verses of scripture, what would you circle, highlight, or underline as important to know or understand? Is there anything you noticed for the first time?

Is there one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses upon you? Meditate on that.

start thinking. ask a thoughtful question

Having read the parable, how do you respond to it?

What does it teach you about God and humanity?

What does it teach you about forgiveness? What is different about the 2 debts?

What is difficult about this parable? What makes sense to you?

Is forgiving a "brother or sister" (fellow slave) different than forgiving someone who is not a part of the Church?

start sharing. engage it with your story

What specific situation in your life relates today? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

What did the Holy Spirit speak to you personally about during the sermon? Was there anything that caught you attention, challenged, or confused you?

What does it mean to forgive "from your heart"?

What amount of time might this practice of forgiveness take?

start practicing. commit to a next step and live it out this week

How will reflecting on this parable help you to follow the way of Jesus faithfully?

start praying. be bold and pray with power