

LESSON 12

THE TRANSFIGURATION

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Forgiveness
Matthew 18:15-35

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

Regarding the approach towards a brother in sin that Jesus just taught, Peter had a question:

“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” (Matthew 18:21)

Is there a limit to our mercy and compassion?
(cf. Luke 17:3-4)

Is there to God's?

What does the number 7 represent?

- Completeness, totality.

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

“Forgive” –

- From the Greek *aphiemi*. Comes from two words, *apo* meaning **“from”** and *iemi* meaning **“to send.”**
- **“To send forth, send away.”** (Vine) (Psalms 103:12; Leviticus 16:21)
- **“To let go, give up, a debt, by not demanding it ... to give up, keep no longer.”** (Thayer)
- The idea of “loosing” one’s sins.

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

- Psalms 130:2-4, ***“Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.”***
- Psalms 32:1, ***“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!”***
- Understanding God’s true nature: Psalms 99:8-9, ***“O Lord our God, You answered them; You were a forgiving God to them, and yet an avenger of their evil deeds. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His holy hill, for holy is the Lord our God.”*** (cf. Exodus 34:6-7; Numbers 14:18)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

- Forgiveness is conditional – ***“If ...”***
- ***“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*** (1 John 1:9)
- ***“Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”*** (Luke 17:3-4)
- ***“For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”*** (Matthew 6:14-15)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

- Psalms 86:5, ***“For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.”*** (Nehemiah 9:17; ESV; ASV and NJKV)
- The father was ready to forgive his son in the parable in Luke 15:20-22.
 - Jesus was ready to forgive those who persecuted and crucified Him! (Luke 23:34; cf. Acts 7)
 - How do we become ***“ready to forgive”***?
 - Become like a child and have a heart of humility. (Colossians 3:12-13)
 - Remember what we have been forgiven of! (1 Timothy 1:12)
 - Put away vengeance. (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; Romans 12:16-17)
 - Learn what love is. (1 Corinthians 13)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

☐ MATTHEW 18:15-35

*“Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, **but up to seventy times seven.**”*
(Matthew 18:22)

Peter asked about a “reasonable” amount of forgiveness to be given.

Jesus responds with an “unreasonable” amount of forgiveness. (1 Kings 12:28)

“Seventy times seven” - without limit.

We need a heart that’s ready for unlimited forgiveness.

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

☐ MATTHEW 18:15-35

*“For this reason **the kingdom of heaven** may be compared to a king who wished to **settle accounts with his slaves.**”* (Matthew 18:23)

Key point: the kingdom or the church is comprised of forgiven people who must forgive others.

A king **“who wished to settle accounts** (*take account - KJV*).” A reckoning: (cf. Matthew 25:19)