

The Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18

by Don Falkos

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Jesus brought a little child to stand with him and said to his disciples, "To be great in the Kingdom of Heaven, become as weak and vulnerable as this child. Don't look down on the marginalized. God doesn't.

"This world's in trouble. Temptations will come, and people will sin. But if you tempt a little child to sin, it would be better for you to have a heavy millstone hung around your neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. The last thing your Father in heaven wants is for even one of these little ones to be lost.

"Get along with one another as best you can. Work together. Pray in agreement. And remember, where two or three come together in my name, I'll be there in the midst of them."

Peter asked, "Lord, how many times should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

Jesus replied, "Why seven? Why not seventy-seven? Or seventy times seven? Forgive! Don't bother to count how many times. Just forgive!

A servant owed the king more than the average person earns in a lifetime. He couldn't pay, so the king forgave the debt.

Then the man went to a fellow servant who owed him a few days' wages and demanded to be paid back. He couldn't pay, so the man threw his fellow servant in prison until he could pay back the debt.

The king was furious, "You are unfit to be my servant." He sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

"I tell you, unless you wholeheartedly forgive others, your Father in heaven will not forgive you."