

For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 18:21-35

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²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children, and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ' **Have patience** [] with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But, that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat, he said, ' **Pay** [] what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ' **Have patience** [] with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'" [NRSV89]

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February 19, 2023
March 19, 2023