

UNFORGIVING SERVANT

Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?'

Jesus answered, 'Not seven times but 77 times.' Then he told this parable ...

... A king wanted to settle his accounts with his servants. One man who owed him 10,000 bags of gold was brought in. Since he was not able to repay his debts, the King ordered that he, along with his wife and children, had to be sold as slaves.

The servant fell to his knees. 'Be patient with me,' he begged. 'I will repay everything.'

The king took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

But on his way out the servant saw a fellow servant who owed him 100 silver coins.

He grabbed him by the neck and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.' The man fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me and I will pay you back.'

The servant refused and had the man put in prison until he paid the debt.

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told the king what had happened.

The king summoned the servant. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all your debt when you begged me to. Shouldn't you have shown the same mercy to your fellow servant?'

The king was angry and handed his servant over to the jailors to be punished until he paid back all he owed ...

.... 'This is how my Heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart,' said Jesus.