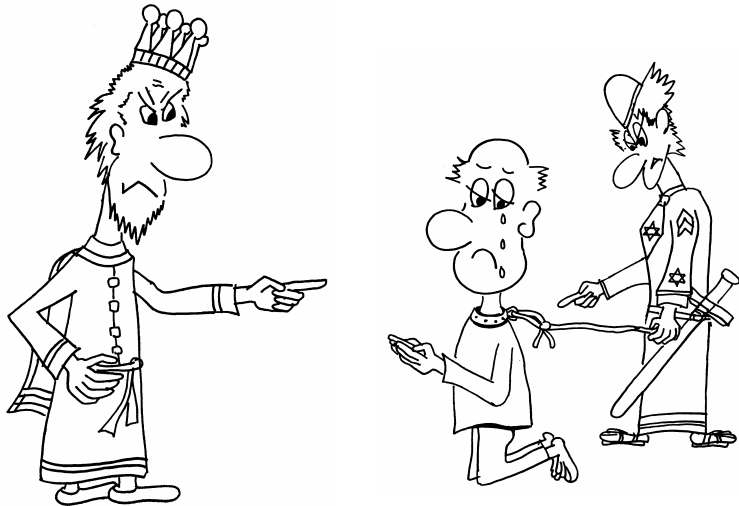


Forgive Your Friend

Matthew 18:21-35 New Living Translation
"Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" {22} "No!" Jesus replied, "seventy times seven!"

7X... NO! 70X7!

Matthew 18:23-27
"For this reason, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. {24} In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. {25} He couldn't pay, so the king ordered that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt.



Forgiveness requires patience!

{26} But the man fell down before the king and begged him, "Oh, sir, **be patient with me**, and I will pay it all. {27} Then the king was filled with pity for him, and he released him and **forgave his debt.**"

Matthew 6:9-15 NKJV

"In this manner, therefore, 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 this day our daily bread. {12} **And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.** {13} And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

{14} "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. {15} "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Look!

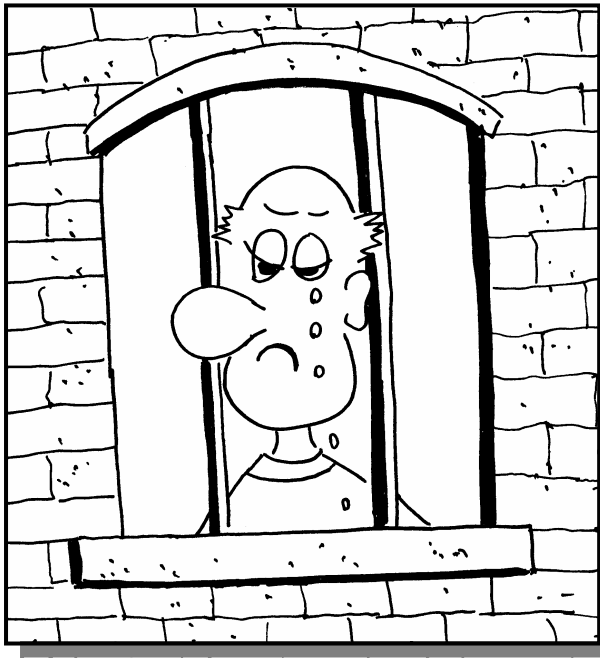
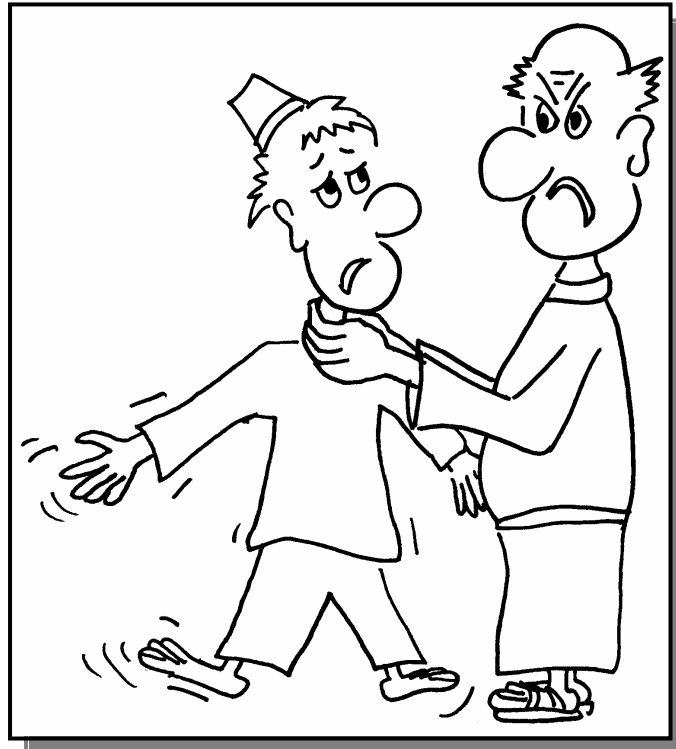
Look!

Matthew 18:28-30

*“But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. {29} His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. {30} But his creditor wouldn’t wait. **He had the man arrested and jailed until the debt could be paid in full.***

Matthew 18:31-34

“When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him what had happened.



*{32} Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. {33} **Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?** {34} Then the angry king sent the man to prison until he had paid every penny.*

Matthew 18:35

(Jesus said to Peter)

“That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters in your heart.””

This story is a parable. Do you remember what a parable is? It is a story we tell about one thing that shows us a truth from the Bible about another thing. Jesus told Peter this story to show him that God would only forgive Peter, if Peter forgave all those people who hurt him. If Peter struck back or demanded they be punished, God would not forgive him for his sins. The same is true about you.

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

The Teaching Ministry of Dr. Bob Abramson - www.mentoringministry.com