

WHAT *DOES IT MEAN* *TO FOLLOW* JESUS?

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING
TO MATTHEW

LAST WEEK

Followers of Jesus are
marked by repentance.

(Matthew 18:15-20)

THIS WEEK

Followers of Jesus are
marked by forgiveness.

(Matthew 18:21-35)

Then Peter came up and said to Jesus,

“Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

Matthew 18:21

*At what point does repeated
forgiveness become too much
forgiveness?*

10k Talents = 200k years of labor.
Modern equivalent: **\$6 billion.**

100 Denarii = 20 weeks of labor.
Modern equivalent: **\$12 thousand.**

Matthew 18:22

Jesus first responds with sarcasm
to humor Peter's question.

Matthew 18:23-35

Jesus then responds with a parable
to destroy Peter's question.

Parable of the Unmerciful Servant | Main Point

**UNFORGIVENESS IS AN
UNFORGIVABLE SIN.**

IF UNFORGIVENESS IS UNFORGIVABLE...

HOW MUST WE
RESPOND?

THREE APPROPRIATE RESPONSES:

1. Ask yourself, “Is there anyone I need to forgive?”
2. Reflect on the enormity of what God has forgiven you.

2. REFLECT ON THE ENORMITY OF WHAT GOD HAS FORGIVEN YOU:

Part of our problem is that we
don't think we're that bad.

At one sin a day:

- If you're 7, you've sinned 3,000xs
- If you're 17, you've sinned 6,000xs
- If you're 27, you've sinned 9,800xs
- If you're 37, you've sinned 13,000xs
- If you're 47, you've sinned 17,000xs

At one sin a day:

- If you're 57, you've sinned 20,800xs
- If you're 67, you've sinned 24,400xs
- If you're 77, you've sinned 28,400xs
- If you're 87, you've sinned 31,700xs

2. REFLECT ON THE ENORMITY OF WHAT GOD HAS FORGIVEN YOU:

Each of our offenses is
sufficient to damn us to hell for
the rest of eternity.

2. REFLECT ON THE ENORMITY OF WHAT GOD HAS FORGIVEN YOU:

God has “forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT FORGIVEN:

We come into this world as rebels against God, and forgiveness doesn't happen automatically.

TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT FORGIVEN:

You must tremble at the holiness of God. Your sin is repugnant to God. It's disgusting. It's undeniable and inescapable.

TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT FORGIVEN:

You must end your rebellion against God and entrust yourself entirely to Jesus as your Savior and King.

THREE APPROPRIATE RESPONSES:

1. Ask yourself, “Is there anyone I need to forgive?”
2. Reflect on the enormity of what God has forgiven you.
3. Seek to be reconciled with everyone in your life.

The Four Promises of Forgiveness

1. I will not dwell on this incident.
2. I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you.
3. I will not talk to others about this incident.
4. I will not let this incident hinder our relationship.

3. SEEK TO BE RECONCILED WITH EVERYONE IN YOUR LIFE:

Forgiveness is not a feeling; you may never feel like forgiving. Forgiveness is an act of the will; you must choose to forgive.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:31-32