

UPSIDE DOWN

Exploring the strange things that Jesus said.

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Seventy Times Seven

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”²² “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!²³

“Therefore, 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 his master ordered that he be sold-

Matthew 18:21-35

**–along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned–
to pay the debt.²⁶ “But the man fell down before his master
and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it
all.’²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he
released him and forgave his debt.²⁸ “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**

Matthew 18:21-35

before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.³¹ "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that 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.

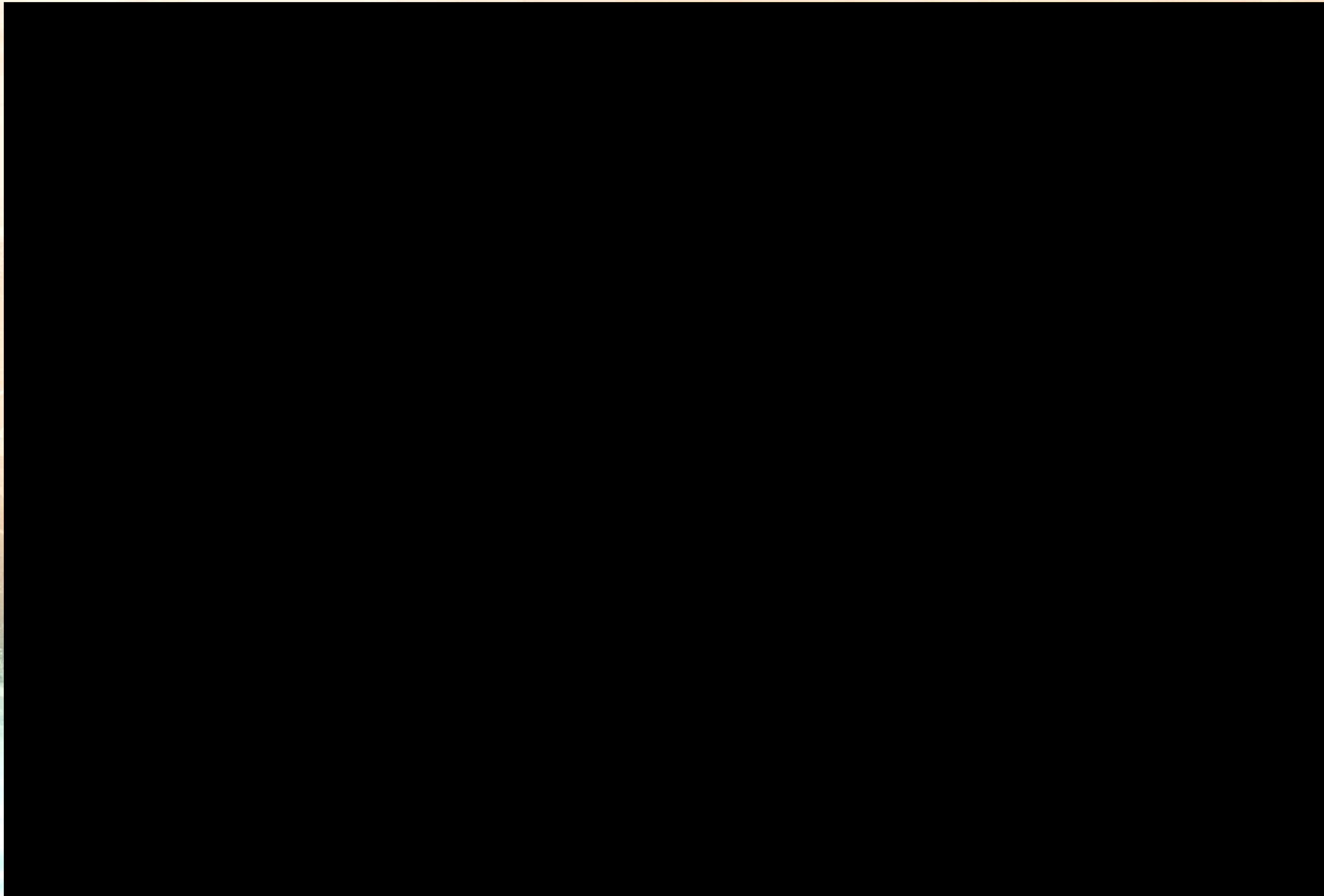
Matthew 18:21-35

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 to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.³⁵

"That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

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Jesus even goes so far as to say that if you're not willing to forgive others, you can't experience the fullness of God's forgiveness in your life.

Matthew 6:14-15

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Remember that phrase--we are to forgive as we have been forgiven.

“I’ll forgive, but I won’t forget

**Forgiving others means giving someone
permission to walk all over you again**

Forget About Keeping Count

Matthew 18:21-22

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Forget About Keeping Count

We're to forgive others an unlimited number of times because he forgives us an unlimited number of times.

Cancel The Debt

Matthew 18:26-27

“But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

Cancel The Debt

There are some times when you forgive others that you simply have to cancel the debt and let them go.

Cancel The Debt

Micah 7:19

Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!

Isaiah 44:22

22 I have swept away your sins like a cloud. I have scattered your offenses like the morning mist. Oh, return to me, for I have paid the price to set you free."

Isaiah 38:17

In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back.

Cancel The Debt

We want them to suffer as we have suffered. That's not forgiveness.

Keep Them Accountable

Matthew 18:28-34

²⁸ “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 with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man

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Keep Them Accountable

The lesson here is that along with forgiveness comes accountability.

Consider God's Mercy In Your Life

Matthew 18:35

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

Consider God's Mercy In Your Life

When we consider God's mercy in our lives, we are compelled to show mercy to others.

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