

Matthew Series

Lesson #105

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Dean Bible Ministries

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MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

How Many Times Must I Forgive?

Matthew 18:21–22

Key Question:

Matt. 18:1, “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ ”

John 13:34, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13:35, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:14, “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

John 13:15, “For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”

Matt. 18:5, “Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

Matt. 18:6, “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin [σκανδαλίζω, *skandalizō*], it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

skandalizo

to bring someone to a downfall through the acceptance of false teaching, or to sin.

skandalon

to influence someone into wrong beliefs or to wrong action.

In these Matt. 18 examples the focus is not just a simple sin, but to lead them far astray, to completely derail their spiritual growth through false teaching or sinful thoughts or actions.

Matt. 18:7, “Woe to the world because of offenses [*skandalon*]! For offenses [*skandalon*] must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense [*skandalon*] comes!”

Matt. 18:8, “If your hand or foot causes you to sin [σκανδαλίζω, *skandalizō*], cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire.

Matt. 18:9, “And if your eye causes you to sin [σκανδαλίζω, *skandalizō*], pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.”

Matt. 18:12, “What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?”

**Shepherd/Owner = God the Father/Lord
Jesus Christ**

**Straying Sheep = the disciple caused to
stumble/sin or be led astray by false
teaching; “these little ones” Matt. 18:14**

Matt. 18:13, “And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray.”

Matt. 18:15, “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.”

Matt. 18:18, “Assuredly, I say to you [plural], whatever you [plural] bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you [plural] loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matt. 18:18, “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Whatever y’all bind on the earth [whatever you prohibit] shall have already been prohibited in heaven. I.e., their decisions were based on absolutes God had already defined in heaven.

Whatever y’all permit on the earth, will have already been permitted in heaven.

Matt. 18:19, “Again I say to y’all that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

Matt. 18:20, “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Matt. 18:21, “Then Peter came to Him and said, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’

Matt. 18:22, “Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’ ”

Prov. 24:16, “For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity.”

Luke 17:3, “Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

Luke 17:4, “And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”

Matt. 18:22, “Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’ ”

Eph. 4:31, “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Eph. 4:32, “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Forgiveness [ἄφεσις, *aphesis*]

ἄφεσις, *aphesis*, noun.

Release, liberation, forgiveness (*EDNT*);

The act of freeing or liberating or releasing someone from captivity; The act of freeing from an obligation, guilt or punishment; Pardon, cancellation. (*BDAG*)

FOUR Categories of Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness directed toward God, where the justice of God cancels the debt of sin. For all mankind without distinction. *Forensic forgiveness.*
2. Forgiveness directed toward individuals, related to imputation of Christ's righteousness and justification. *Positional forgiveness.*
3. Forgiveness of the believer's ongoing sins at confession, 1 John 1:9. *Experiential forgiveness.*
4. Forgiveness toward others as a reflection of God's grace toward us (Eph. 4:32). *Relational forgiveness.*

Matt. 18:23, “Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.”

Matt. 18:1, “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’

Matt. 18:2, “Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,

Matt. 18:3, “and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.’ ”

King = God

Subjects = believers

**Contrast between those who have learned
humility and those who haven't.**

Matt. 18:24, “And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

Matt. 18:25, “But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

Matt. 18:26, “The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ”

10,000 Talents

Sixteen years of wages:

The total annual revenue Rome collected from Judea, Galilee, Samaria, and Idumea was about 900 talents, equivalent to 11 years of taxes.

In the Old Testament the amount of gold given for the Temple was just over 8,000 talents, 1 Chron. 29:4, 7.

The amount of gold which came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold, 1 Kings 10:14.

μύριοι *murioi*

ten thousand; actually, just an enormous number, that was beyond 10,000

Matt. 18:27, “Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.”

ἀπολύω *apoluō*

aor act indic 3 sing

to release from an obligation, divorce

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(*BDAG*)**

Matt. 18:28, “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’”

Matt. 18:29, “So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’”

Matt. 18:30, “And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.”

Matt. 18:31, “So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

Matt. 18:32, “Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.

Matt. 18:33, “ ‘Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ ”

Matt. 18:34, “And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

Matt. 18:35, “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”