

Reflection Question of the Week

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

**24th Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

September 13, 2026

Have you ever been really mad at someone but then decided to forgive them? What happened?

Children

Who is someone you are having difficulty forgiving? What would it mean to recognize how much forgiveness you have received and allow that experience to shape how you respond to them?

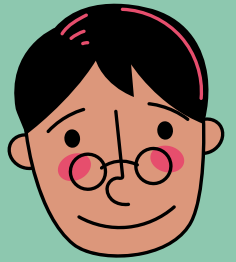
Adults

Why can forgiving someone who has hurt you be so difficult – and what do you think Jesus means when he asks us to forgive “not seven times but seventy-seven times”?

Teens

What gets in the way of forgiveness in our family, and what could we do to make forgiveness a more natural part of our family life?

Families





The Word of God

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I **forgive**? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the **accounting**, a **debtor** was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the **debt**. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’ Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the **loan**. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?’ Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.”

Gospel Glossary

Forgive means choosing to let go of anger when someone has hurt or wronged you.

Accounting is keeping track of money - how much comes in, how much goes out, and how much is saved or spent.

A **debtor** is a person who borrowed money from someone else, and needs to pay it back.

Debt is money that you owe to someone and need to pay back.

Loan is money that someone lends to you, that you agree to pay back later.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, Thank You for teaching us to forgive others, just as You forgive us. Help us let go of anger, show kindness, and forgive even when it is difficult. Remind us of Your great love and mercy, and help everyone share that love with others.

In Jesus' name, amen.