The Gift of Forgiveness – Mt. 18:21-35

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Christ tells us in Matthew 18:15-20 what to do if someone sins against us. He tells us how to make the problem right. Peter picks up on this theme, and he wants to clarify an important point. He essentially asks, "How often should I be willing to be restored to my brother who sins against me?" Trying to justify himself and being generous in nature, Peter suggests forgiving up to seven times. But Peter's thinking is faulty. So Christ corrects Peter's mistake by saying that forgiveness should be extended 490 times! (i.e. infinitely!) Christ then gives a parable that teaches the following truth: If we have been infinitely forgiven by God, then we must infinitely forgive others.

I. We must infinitely forgive others because we owe an infinite debt (18:23-25)

II. We must infinitely forgive others because we have been infinitely forgiven our debt (18:27)

III. We must infinitely forgive others because others owe us comparatively nothing (18:28-29)

IV. We must infinitely forgive others because failure to do so is evidence that we have never been infinitely forgiven ourselves (18:32-35)