

**Sermon Outline**  
“Forgiving One Another”  
Matthew 18:21-35

- I.** The progression in Chapter 18
  - A.** Be humble toward one another – vv. 1-5
  - B.** Avoid causing others to stumble vv. 6-9
  - C.** Rescue one another when your brother wanders vv. 10-14
  - D.** Restore one another from sinful situations vv. 15-20
  - E.** Forgive one another when wronged vv. 21-35
    - Note:** D & E reflect a connection set forth in Lev 19:17-18: “Rebuke, but do not hold a grudge.”
  
- II.** Concerning grudges vv. 21-22
  - A.** Peter raises a question: “Forgive 7 times?” (*cf.* Gen 4:15)
    - 1. We should seek to bring him back (*cf.* v. 15)
    - 2. But what about his offence *against me?* v. 21
  - B.** Jesus answers: “Not 7, but 77.” (*cf.* Gen 4:24)
    - 1. Repeated, full forgiveness must be the standard
    - 2. Failure to forgive is failure to mirror God’s image (*cf.* Mt 5:48)
    - 3. Forgiveness must characterize the church (*cf.* Mt 6:14-15)
  
- III.** Jesus gives an illustrating parable in three scenes vv. 23-34
  - A.** Scene 1 – The king offers forgiveness
    - 1. The situation vv. 23-25
    - 2. The statement/request v. 26
    - 3. The response v. 27
  - B.** Scene 2 – The servant refuses forgiveness
    - 1. The situation v. 28
    - 2. The statement/request v. 29
    - 3. The response v. 30
  - C.** Scene 3 – the king revokes forgiveness (faith w/o works is dead)
    - 1. The situation v. 31
    - 2. The statement vv. 32-33
    - 3. The response v. 34
  
- IV.** Jesus states the conclusion of the matter v. 35 (*cf.* v. 33)  
Forgiveness, including mutual forgiveness among members of Christ’s church, is central to the Christian faith and life.  
See Mt 6:12, 14-15; I John 1:5-7.  
Every one of you should forgive his brother!