

September 13th 2026 24th Sunday Ordinary Time – Year A Matthew 18:21-35

¹⁸⁻²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” ²²Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. ²⁹“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ ³⁰“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³²“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel. ➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.	➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition. ➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).
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In this week’s gospel Jesus surprised Peter by asking him to forgive seventy-seven times. Hurts and wrongs are part of human relations so each one of us may have to forgive many times in our lives and it is not always easy. Jesus is always there to help us if we trust and believe he understands our human condition. True forgiveness is from within. It is God-given, a matter of forgiving from the heart. Who are the people whose ability to forgive has inspired us?

Prayer:

Thank You Lord for the people who by their example of forgiveness have shown us the peace & freedom it brings to us and our world.

Forgive us Lord for the times we had negative thoughts and feelings towards those who hurt us. We prevented the freedom in mind , soul and body which true forgiveness brings.

Help us Lord to realise it is not God who keeps us in bondage but ourselves when we do not forgive but act in a negative way towards those who hurt us. We very quickly become filled with negative thoughts.