

whether seven times was the number of times he was to forgive his brother when he trespassed against him, Jesus says, "I say not unto thee, until seven times; i.e., Peter wasn't to forgive his brother just seven times, "but until seventy times seven," i.e., Peter was to forgive his brother such a large amount of times (490), that it would be almost impossible to keep count of the number of times he forgave him. In other words, Peter was to forgive his brother an unlimited number of times.

The same is true for us. We are to forgive an unlimited number of times. This means we are to forgive all the offenses committed against us, no matter how many they are. But sometimes we refuse to forgive the one who offends us, and ^{when} if we do that, we are disobeying Jesus' teaching in this passage. Let me illustrate:

Sometimes someone will offend us and that offense will seem so ' great to us we'll say we'll forgive that person anything but that one thing!

One day a student came into my office. Someone whom he loved very much had offended him. That offense seemed so great to that student that he said to me, with tears trickling down his cheeks, "I'll forgive that person anything but that one thing!" I asked that student, "How does what you say stack up along side of what Jesus says in Matthew 18:22, for in this passage Jesus says we are to forgive an unlimited number of times which means we are to forgive all the offenses committed against us, no matter how many they are?" I then asked that student, "In light of what Jesus says, can there be such a thing as 'that one thing' for which we don't have to forgive a person?" That student saw the point immediately, and he forgave the one who had offended him. And just as