

that student forgave the one who had offended him even though that offense seemed so great to him, so when someone offends us, no matter how great that offense may seem to us, we are to forgive that person for it, for if we don't, we are disobeying Jesus' teaching in this passage.

Or again, sometimes someone will offend us and we'll forgive that person for it. Then that person will do that same thing to us a second and third time, and each time we'll forgive him for it. Then that person will do that same thing to us a fourth time and we'll say, "That's it! That's the last straw! I'll never forgive that person for doing that thing to me again!" But 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. Can there be such a thing then as a last straw or a person doing the same thing to us one time too many so we don't have to forgive him for it any more? Certainly not! If someone offends us then, no matter how many times that person has committed that same offense against us before, we are to forgive him for it, for if we don't we are disobeying Jesus' teaching in this passage.

Or again, sometimes someone will offend us, and since Jesus says in Luke 17:4 we are to forgive that person if he comes to us and says "I'm sorry" and asks for our forgiveness, we'll say we are not going to forgive that person until he does it.

How does this fit with Jesus' teaching in this passage? It doesn't! For if we do this, we are disobeying Jesus' teaching in this passage from the time that person offends us to the time he comes to us and says "I'm sorry" and asks for our forgiveness. Furthermore, during that time, we are disobeying the Lord's commandment in Leviticus 19:18 which says,