

## Loft Underground

### Shades of Red - Week Four

**The loft continues focusing on parables of Jesus emphasizing love and sacrifice.**

**Take a look at Matthew 18: 21-35 and underline phrases that most grab your attention.**

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since 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. The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

What is your reaction to Peter's initial suggestion to forgive someone 7 times?

There is a hidden Biblical debate occurring here. Read Genesis 4:15, Jesus' answer to Peter, and Genesis 4:24. How is the conversation between Jesus and Peter reminiscent of the Cain and Abel passage?

What would you guess is the most times you have forgiven someone?

What words would you use to describe the emotions connected to forgiving another?

**The conversation between Jesus and Peter opens to the parable of the unforgiving servant. As the parable is lengthy, summarize it in one sentence below.**

The number “10,000 talents” is an astronomical number. A ‘talent’ was 20.4 kilograms of silver and King Herod, for example, in all his territories collected 900 talents of silver in taxes annually.

- How does the enormity of the first servant’s debt change the meaning?
- Next we learn that a second servant owes the first servant approximately 1/600th of what the first servant owed the master. How does the debt level affect the parable’s meaning?
- Another Biblical echo: Jesus’ words in Matthew 18:33 is a quote of Jonah 4:11. How are Jonah and the Parable of the Unforgiving servant linked by the theme of mercy?

**The series Shades of Red is designed to draw attention to the love and sacrifice taught and exemplified by Jesus.**

- In your own words, where do you see love and sacrifice in action within the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant?
- Remember a time you forgave someone – where were love and sacrifice in action within you?
- In everyone’s life there is a person that we need to forgive. Who is that person for you? Write their name on a piece of paper and place it on your mirror and pray for them for one week.

**If you want to go an extra mile take a look at Matthew 7:1-5. How is it connected to our parable for this week?**

**See you at the loft!**