



The Servant Who Had No Mercy Matthew 18:21-35

Memory Verse:
Put God's kingdom first.
Matthew 6:33 NIV

The true story from the Bible comes from the book of Matthew, and it begins with Jesus.

One day, Jesus was teaching His friends, the disciples, about how to treat other people. Peter asked Jesus, "How many times do I have to forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Do I have to forgive him seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times." Matthew 18:22 NIrV.

Then Jesus told Peter a story about a king who wanted to collect the money that some people owed him.

One man owed the king a lot of money, so the man fell on his knees and begged the king.

He said, "Give me time. I'll pay it back!"

The king felt sorry for the man, so he decided to be kind to him. The king forgave the man. He chose not to be angry with the man, and he told him he didn't have to pay back any of the money he owed him!

But then the man went and found a person who owed him just a little bit of money. The person begged the man, "Give me time. I'll pay it back!"

But the man wasn't kind like the king. He was mean! He had the person put in jail, even though it was only a little bit of money.

Some people told the king everything that happened, and the king became very upset. He told the man, "I forgave you because I was kind. You should have been kind to that person too." The king was so angry that he had the man put in jail.

Jesus told Peter this story because he wanted Peter to know that God is kind and forgiving, like the king.

Questions:

- **Where does the true Bible story come from?** (The book of Matthew.)
- **What did Peter ask Jesus?** ("How many times do I have to

forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Do I have to forgive him seven times?")

- **What did Jesus tell Peter?** (I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times. Matthew 18:22 NIrV).
- **What story did Jesus tell Peter about?** (A king who wanted to collect the money that some people owed him.)
- **Why did the king forgive the man who owed him a lot of money?** (He felt sorry for the man, so he decided to be kind to him.)
- **What did the man do when he found a person who owed him a little bit of money?** (He was mean and had the person put in jail.)
- **What did the king tell the man?** ("I forgave you because I was kind. You should have been kind to that person too.")
- **Why did the king have the man put in jail?** (He was angry that the man didn't forgive the person who borrowed money.)
- **Why did Jesus tell Peter the story?** (He wanted Peter to know that God is kind and forgiving, like the king.)

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You so much for being so good and loving, and thank You so much for giving us Jesus. I am so glad Jesus teaches us about Your kingdom. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Parent Cue:

- **Morning Time:** When you go into your child's room, cuddle them and say: "Good morning [child's name]! I'm so happy to know that God forgives us and we can forgive others!"
- **Cuddle Time:** Cuddle with your child and pray: "God, thank You for forgiving us. Help us to forgive like You."
- **Drive Time:** While on the go, talk about the different things we do. Say: "Whatever we do, we should put God's kingdom first!"
- **Bath Time:** Add some bubbles to bath time. Say, "Let's put some bubbles on your head like a crown and say our memory verse. 'Put God's kingdom first' Matthew 6:33."