

## Dear Families:

Today we continued our study of the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus is taking on the role of teacher. He continues a discussion that He is having with His disciples. He began the discussion by saying how evil sin is. He warned us to not cause an innocent child to sin- those who do so would be better off having a millstone tied to their neck and thrown into the sea. He cautioned that if we have something in our life that causes us to sin, we need to cut it out of our lives. Even if it is a part of us, it is better to go through life maimed and get to Heaven than be sent to Hell. Last week, we talked about how we should forgive fellow believers by using Jesus' three-step process: name the sin, repent, gain forgiveness.

This week, we talk about Peter's reply: "Master, how often should I forgive my brother?" Jesus gave this reply, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven." Even if we can't do that math in our head, we know that's a big number! Jesus is telling us that if our brother or sister in Christ has sinned and repented, we MUST forgive. No matter how many times we need to go through this process, our forgiveness must be given. We need to do this because that is what God does for us! We are human and will always sin. But even if we always sin, if we repent God will always forgive! He is so merciful! There is no way any of us could earn our way to Heaven on our own. How amazing is it that God is always willing to forgive us the second we repent! Since He shows us such amazing mercy, it is only right that we also forgive, since we are God's hands and feet in the world.

The tricky part is remembering that we have a responsibility as one of God's forgiven children. God is merciful, but He hates sin. In order to honor this mercy, we need to do all that we can to remove the sin from our lives. Look carefully- where are you tempted to sin? Who or what pulls you away from what you know is right to what you know is wrong? A group of friends? Something online? If you know what is tempting you, cut it out of your life. Show God that you are sincere in your repentance. That's not going to be easy. Luckily for you, you will never have to do it alone.

Thank you for joining us today!

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