

Gospel: Hear words of faith from the Gospel of Matthew
18:21-25

Peter came up and asked Jesus, "When a sister or brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?"

"No," Jesus replied, "not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven. And here's why.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt

Pause

For scriptures which challenge our thinking and living:
We give thanks.

Gospel: Hear words of faith from the Gospel of Matthew
18:15-20

"If your sister or brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out the error, but keep it between the two of you. If she or he listens to you, you have won a loved one back; if not, try again, but take one or two others with you, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses. If your sister or brother refuses to listen to them, refer the matter to the church. If she or he ignores even the church, then treat that sister or brother as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

"The truth is, whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven.

"Again I tell you, if two of you on earth join in agreement to pray for anything whatsoever, it will be granted you by God in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst."

Pause

For the Word that was in the beginning,
for the Word that invites and inspires,
for the Word embodied in Jesus and in us.

We give thanks.