

SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSONS, THIRD QUARTER.

LESSON 7.]

THE FORGIVING SPIRIT.

[AUG. 12.]

Matt. 18. 21-35.

GOLDEN TEXT—Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors—
Matt. 6. 12.

MEMORY VERSES, 21, 22.—Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but until seventy times seven.

To the folks at home: Please help the little folks to learn this lesson.

LESSON STORY.

The teachings of Jesus were so unlike the teaching of the priests and Pharisees that it is not strange that the disciples had a great many questions to ask him. For instance it was said by the Jews that it was right to do by others as they do by us. Peter had seen that this was not the spirit of Jesus and he thought if he could only know just how many times we ought to forgive one another it would be a great help. He must have been surprised when Jesus told him that it was our duty (and privilege) to go on forgiving as long as there was anything to forgive. Not merely seven times but seventy times seven. It takes a heart like the heart of Jesus to do that.

So you see the beautiful meaning of the story Jesus told his disciples that day? The king in the story is God and the servants are all those who owe something to him. Each one of us owes him everything and yet how quick we are to find fault with one who owes us a little. Even as God forgives us, so must we forgive others if we are true children of God.

LESSON QUESTIONS.

1. Where was Jesus now?

In Capernaum.

2. What did Peter ask him?

How many times to forgive.