

Lesson VII.

THE FORGIVING SPIRIT

August 12, 1900

Matt. 18 : 21-35—Memory Verses, 21,22

Golden Text—Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.—Matt. 6 : 12.

21 Then came Pe'ter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Je'sus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him which owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow-servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands

on him and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellow-servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormenters, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Once Peter came to Jesus, saying, "Lord tell me exactly how many times I ought to forgive a person when he does wrong to me? Is seven times not enough?"

Jesus answered, not seven times, but seventy times seven. That means, always.

Jesus wanted His followers to remember how His Father in heaven had forgiven

their many sins and to learn to treat others as they had been treated themselves. So He told this little story,—“There was once a great and wealthy king who had many servants. But the head steward was a thief and had wasted millions of dollars of his master's money.

“At the counting-up time he was much

see Lesson 7

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