The Gift of FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:21-22



- In understanding Jesus comments, we must be familiar with the significance of numbers in the Bible.
- The numbers 7 and 10 are known in the Scriptures to be digital values that represent completion or perfection.

- Therefore, the symbolism of 7 times 70 goes way beyond 490 and really indicates ultimate forgiveness (complete, perfect)
- We are told to be like our Heavenly Father in Matthew 5 and 6 when it comes to love and forgiveness.
- This text is about Peter being molded more into the image of God and by example helping us to do the same.

- I am so thankful that God is not just the God of second chances.
- If he were only the God of second chances then I have been relegated to a person with NO CHANCE!
- I need complete (perfect) love and forgiveness.

- Luke also gives us some insight into God's teaching on forgiveness in 17:3-4.
- When we assemble all of this knowledge about God's expectations for forgiveness and quite frankly his approach to forgiveness, as demonstrated in Matt. 18:23-35 and Luke 15:11-32, we actually get to see the lengths (depths) of God's love for us.

God's love goes so far that it......

FORGIVES SIN

- Eph. 1:4-7
- Think about the ugliness of sin
 - I John 3:4- Lawlessness
 - Eph. 2:14- Hostility towards God (brings God's wrath). Why? Sin is evil (wickedness) Mark 7:21-23
 - I John 5:17- Wrongdoing (unrighteousness)

• God's love goes so far that it......

FORGIVES ALL SINS

- We are talking about all types of sins.
 - I Cor. 6:9-11
 - I Tim. 1:12-16
 - I John 1:9

• God's love goes so far that it......

FORGIVES ALL SINS

- We are talking about the number of sins.
 - I John 1:7-9 (this text deals with both)
 - Col. 2:13
 - Hebrews 8:12

• God's love goes so far that it......

TOOK HIS BELOVED SON DYING FOR MY FORGIVENESS

- Romans 5:8
- Hebrews 9:28
- I Peter 2:24; 3:18