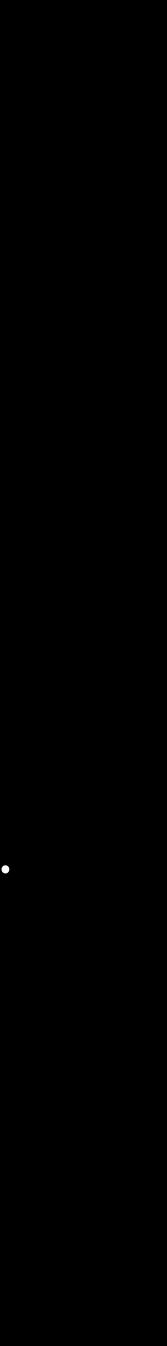
THEN PETER CAME TO JESUS AND ASKED, "LORD, HOW MANY TIMES SHALL I FORGIVE MY BROTHER OR SISTER WHO SINS AGAINST ME? UP TO SEVEN TIMES?" JESUS ANSWERED, "I TELL YOU, NOT SEVEN TIMES, BUT SEVENTY-SEVEN TIMES. "THEREFORE, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A KING WHO WANTED TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH HIS SERVANTS. AS HE BEGAN THE SETTLEMENT, A MAN WHO OWED



HIM TEN THOUSAND BAGS OF GOLD WAS BROUGHT TO HIM. SINCE HE WAS NOT ABLE TO PAY, THE MASTER ORDERED THAT HE AND HIS WIFE AND HIS CHILDREN AND ALL THAT HE HAD BE SOLD TO REPAY THE DEBT. AT THIS THE SERVANT FELL ON HIS KNEES BEFORE HIM. 'BE PATIENT WITH ME,' HE BEGGED, 'AND I WILL PAY BACK EVERYTHING.' THE SERVANT'S MASTER TOOK PITY ON HIM, CANCELED



THE DEBT AND LET HIM GO. BUT WHEN THAT SERVANT WENT OUT, HE FOUND ONE OF HIS FELLOW SERVANTS WHO OWED HIM A HUNDRED SILVER COINS. HE GRABBED HIM AND BEGAN TO CHOKE HIM. 'PAY BACK WHAT YOU OWE ME!' HE DEMANDED. HIS FELLOW SERVANT FELL TO HIS KNEES AND BEGGED HIM, 'BE PATIENT WITH ME, AND I WILL PAY IT BACK.' BUT HE REFUSED.

MATTHEW 18:21-35

INSTEAD, HE WENT OFF AND HAD THE MAN THROWN INTO PRISON UNTIL HE COULD PAY THE DEBT. WHEN THE OTHER SERVANTS SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED, THEY WERE OUTRAGED AND WENT AND TOLD THEIR MASTER EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED. THEN THE MASTER CALLED THE SERVANT IN. 'YOU WICKED SERVANT,' HE SAID, 'I CANCELED ALL THAT DEBT OF YOURS BECAUSE YOU

BEGGED ME TO. SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE HAD MERCY ON YOUR FELLOW SERVANT JUST AS I HAD ON YOU?' IN ANGER HIS MASTER HANDED HIM OVER TO THE JAILERS TO BE TORTURED, UNTIL HE SHOULD PAY BACK ALL HE OWED. THIS IS HOW MY HEAVENLY FATHER WILL TREAT EACH OF YOU UNLESS YOU FORGIVE YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER FROM YOUR HEART."









TO FORGIVE IS TO SET A PRISONER FREE, AND DISCOVER THAT THE PRISONER WAS YOU.

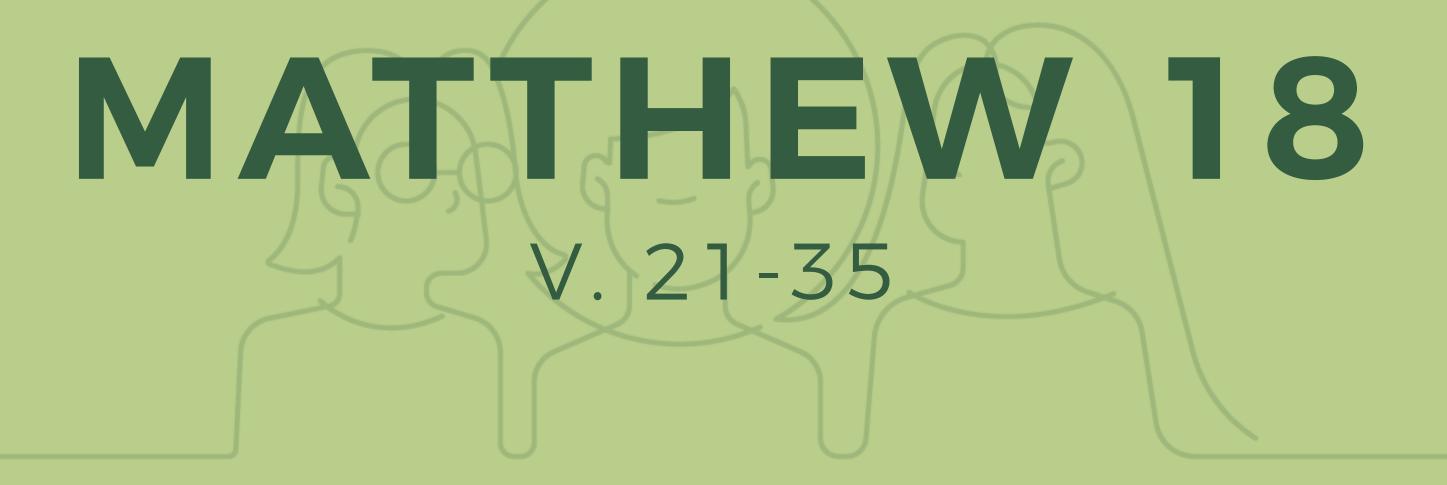
LEWIS B. SMEDES

















FORGIVENESS ISN'T...

60,96



FORGIVENESS ISN'T......IGNORING OR FORGETTING





FORGIVENESS ISN'T... ...IGNORING OR FORGETTING ...CONDONING OR EXCUSING



FORGIVENESS ISN'T... ...IGNORING OR FORGETTING ...CONDONING OR EXCUSING ...RECONCILIATION OR RESTORATION









FORGIVENESS IS:



FORGIVENESS IS: ACKNOWLEDGING THE WRONG DONE,



FORGIVENESS IS: ACKNOWLEDGING THE WRONG DONE, ABSORBING THE HURT IT CAUSED,



CAUSED, AND MAKING A CONSCIOUS



CAUSED, AND MAKING A CONSCIOUS



CAUSED, AND MAKING A CONSCIOUS



HE HIMSELF **BORE OUR SINS IN HIS BODY** ON THE CROSS, SO THAT WE MIGHT DIE TO SINS AND LIVE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS; "BY HIS WOUNDS YOU HAVE BEEN HEALED."

1 PETER 2:24



CAUSED, AND MAKING A CONSCIOUS



DO NOT REPAY ANYONE EVIL FOR EVIL. BE CAREFUL TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN THE EYES OF EVERYONE. IF IT IS POSSIBLE, AS FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU. LIVE AT PEACE WITH EVERYONE. DO NOT TAKE REVENCE, MY DEAR FRIENDS, BUT LEAVE ROOM FOR GOD'S WRATH, FOR IT IS WRITTEN: "IT IS MINE TO AVENCE; I WILL REPAY," SAYS THE LORD.

ROMANS 12:17-19





