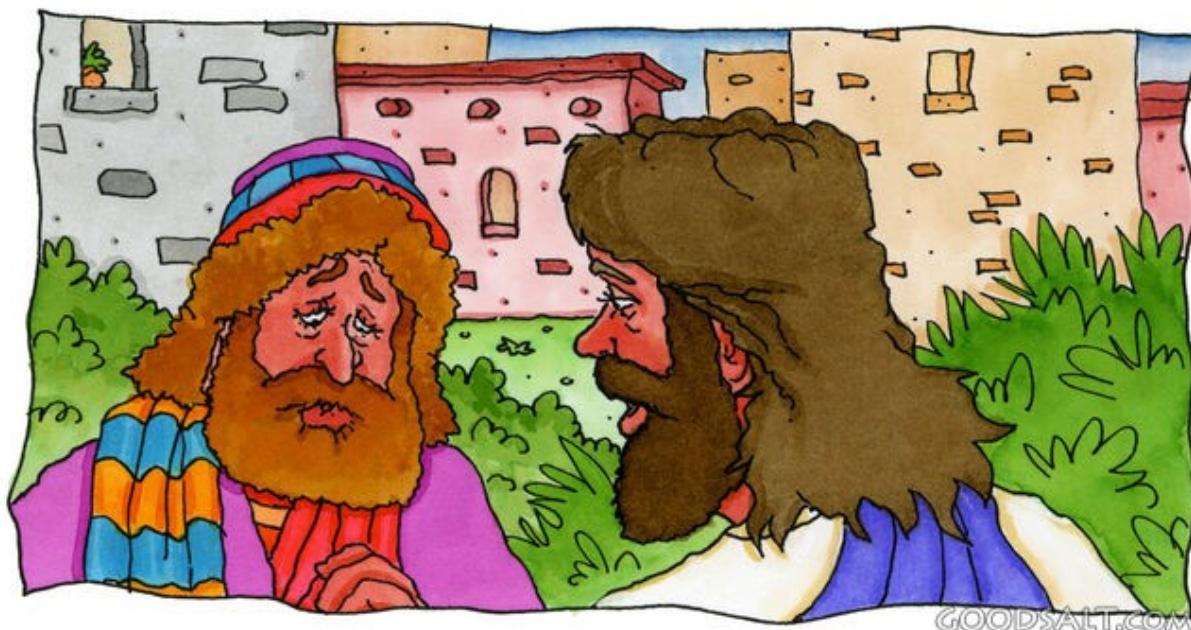


Bringing it Home For Sunday, September 13, 2026

By Allison de Kanel



In today's Bible story, Jesus talked about forgiveness. He said we need to forgive other people just as we want God to forgive us. He even included forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer. We ask God to forgive our sins, just as we forgive other people.

But we don't forgive other people only because we're afraid God won't forgive us.

Do you know what "carrying a grudge" is? That's being angry or resentful of someone long after they offended you. When you do that, when you keep remembering how annoyed you are with them, it's like carrying them around on your shoulder. You're giving them time and attention, just by thinking about them.

We can do better things with our time and energy. Things that help other people. Things that might even be fun.

Jesus wants us to be forgiving people. He gave us an example of forgiveness when he was dying on the Cross. Then, after his Resurrection, he forgave Peter, who denied him.

It can be hard to forgive. But Jesus wants us to try.

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me. I want to follow you and be like you. Help me to learn to forgive other people when I want to stay angry. I can't do it by myself, but with your help I will. Amen.

Today's Bible lessons: Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Illustration: "Jesus forgives Peter," from www.goodsalt.com.