

## **A Few Thoughts on Forgiveness**

**In Matthew 18:21-22, Peter asks Jesus, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered him, “I do not say to you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.” From there on to verse 35, Jesus tells the story of a king settling accounts with his servants. Check it out.**

**It occurred to me while reading over this passage again for the first time that Jesus is telling Peter he is to forgive his brother’s sins against him not just seven times but a whole lot more times than seemed reasonable to Peter. In light of all of this, is it not apparent that the Lord will surely forgive our sins, and our trespasses as well, not just once, twice or seven times but at least 490 times? Does that include forgiveness for those repeat offenders who, like me, miss the mark on a regular basis? That’s what our Lord is saying, it seems to me. Do I understand that kind of forgiveness? No way. However, it does remind me again for the first time of something a dear friend often says: “Isn’t God good?” He certainly is, and compassionate, loving, understanding, and oh so forgiving of sinners like me. Is that not good news? It is to me.**

**Harvill here...11-14-02**