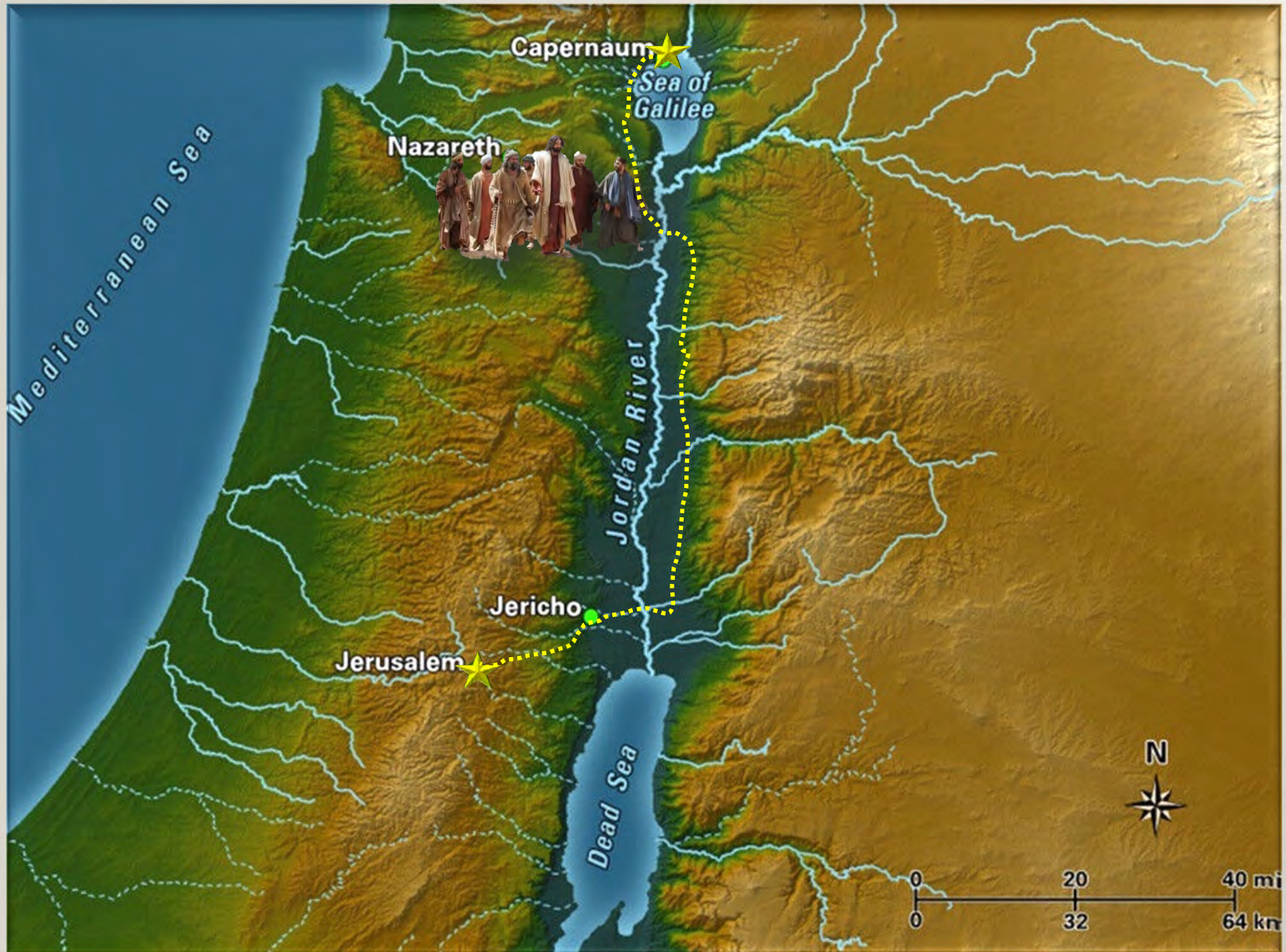


The Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35



Dr. David Martin • Amman International Church
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Mediterranean Sea

Capernaum
Sea of Galilee

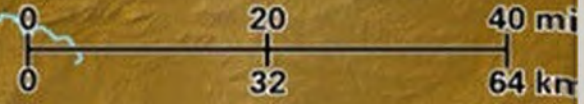
Nazareth

Jordan River

Jericho

Jerusalem

Dead Sea



DEALING WITH FAMILY ISSUES IN THE KINGDOM



All for
restoration

CONFRONTING

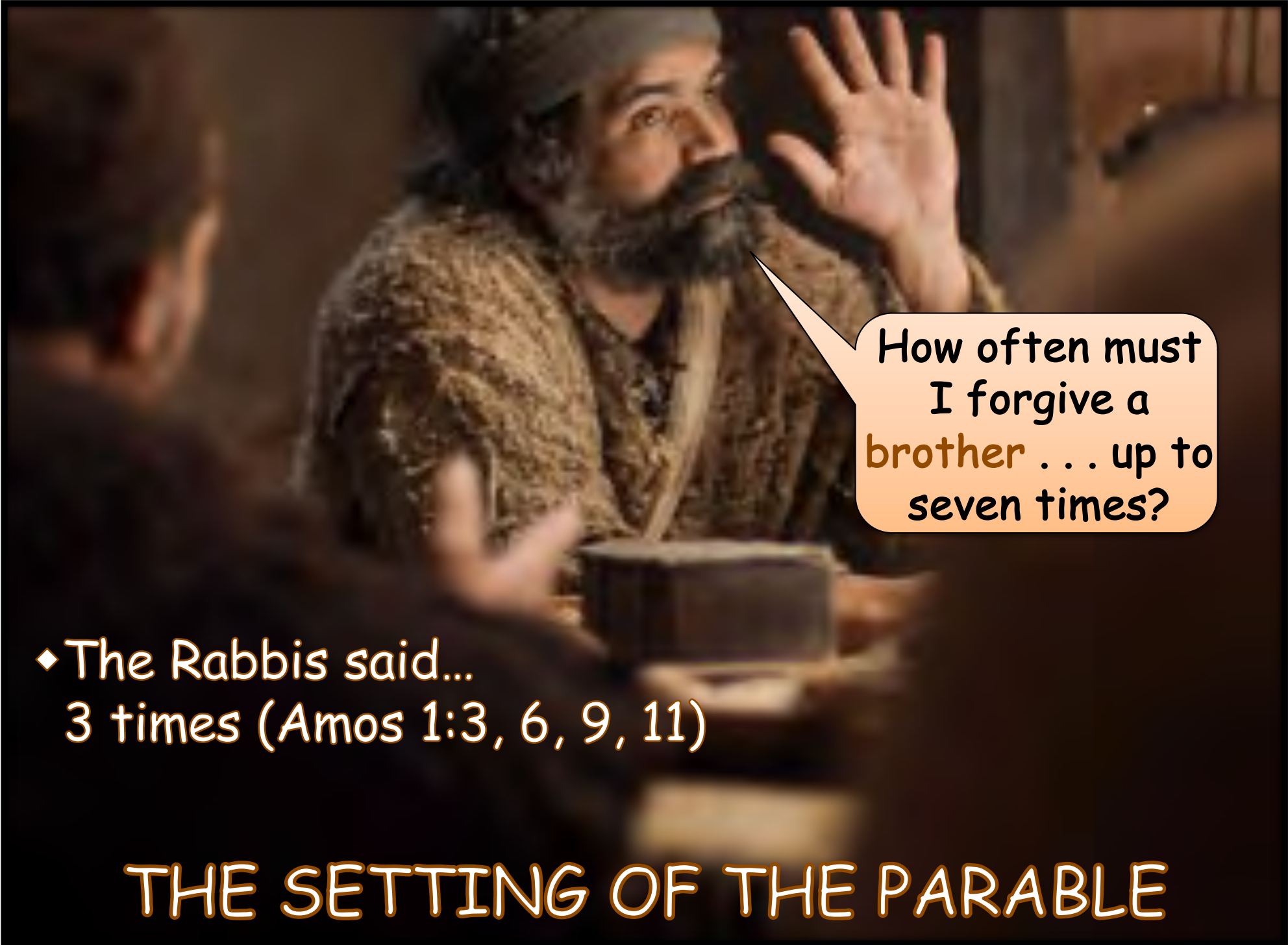
**Matthew
18:15-17a**

DISCIPLINE

**Matthew
18:17b-20**

FORGIVENESS

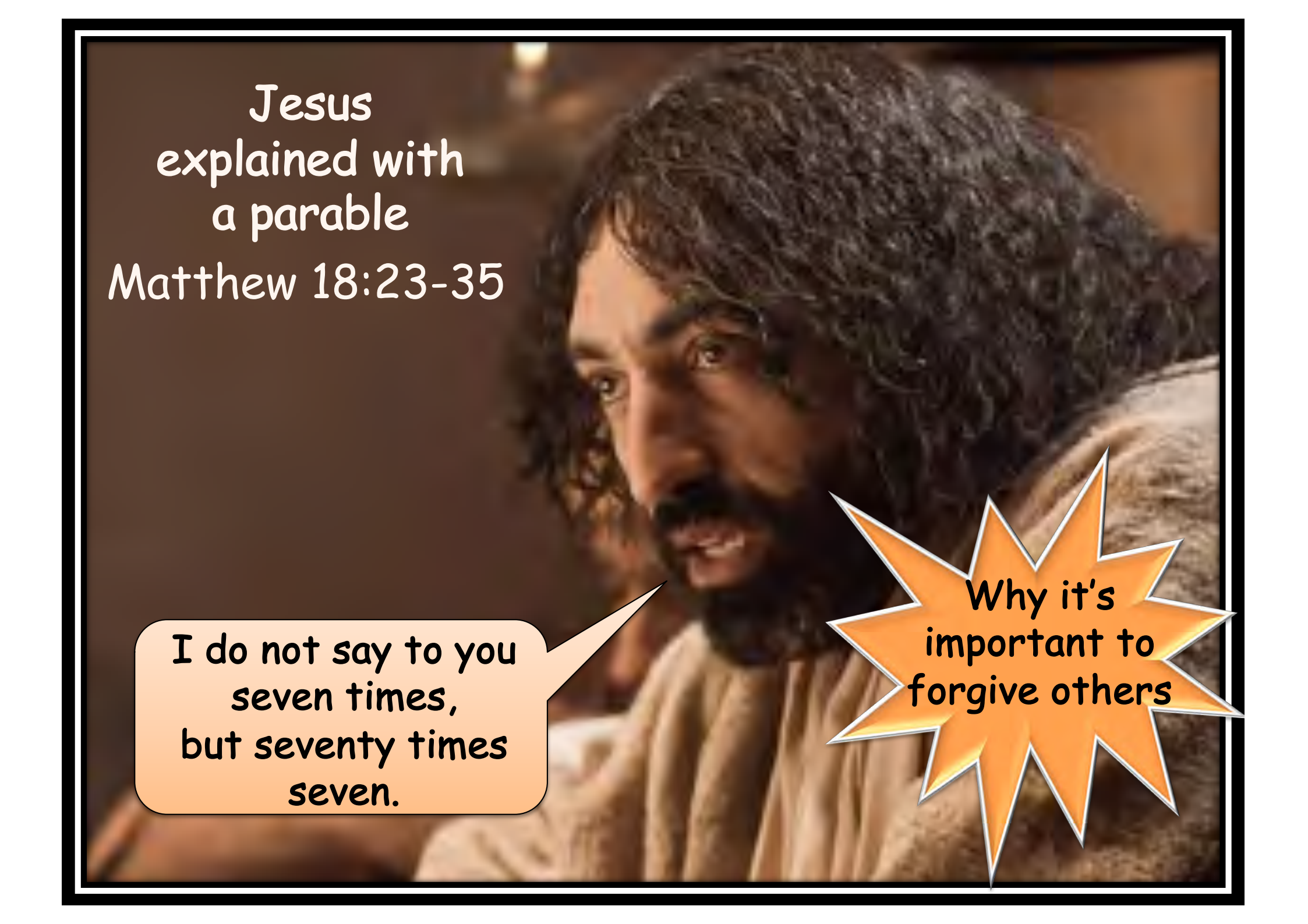
**Matthew
18:21-35**



How often must
I forgive a
brother . . . up to
seven times?

- ◆ The Rabbis said...
3 times (Amos 1:3, 6, 9, 11)

THE SETTING OF THE PARABLE

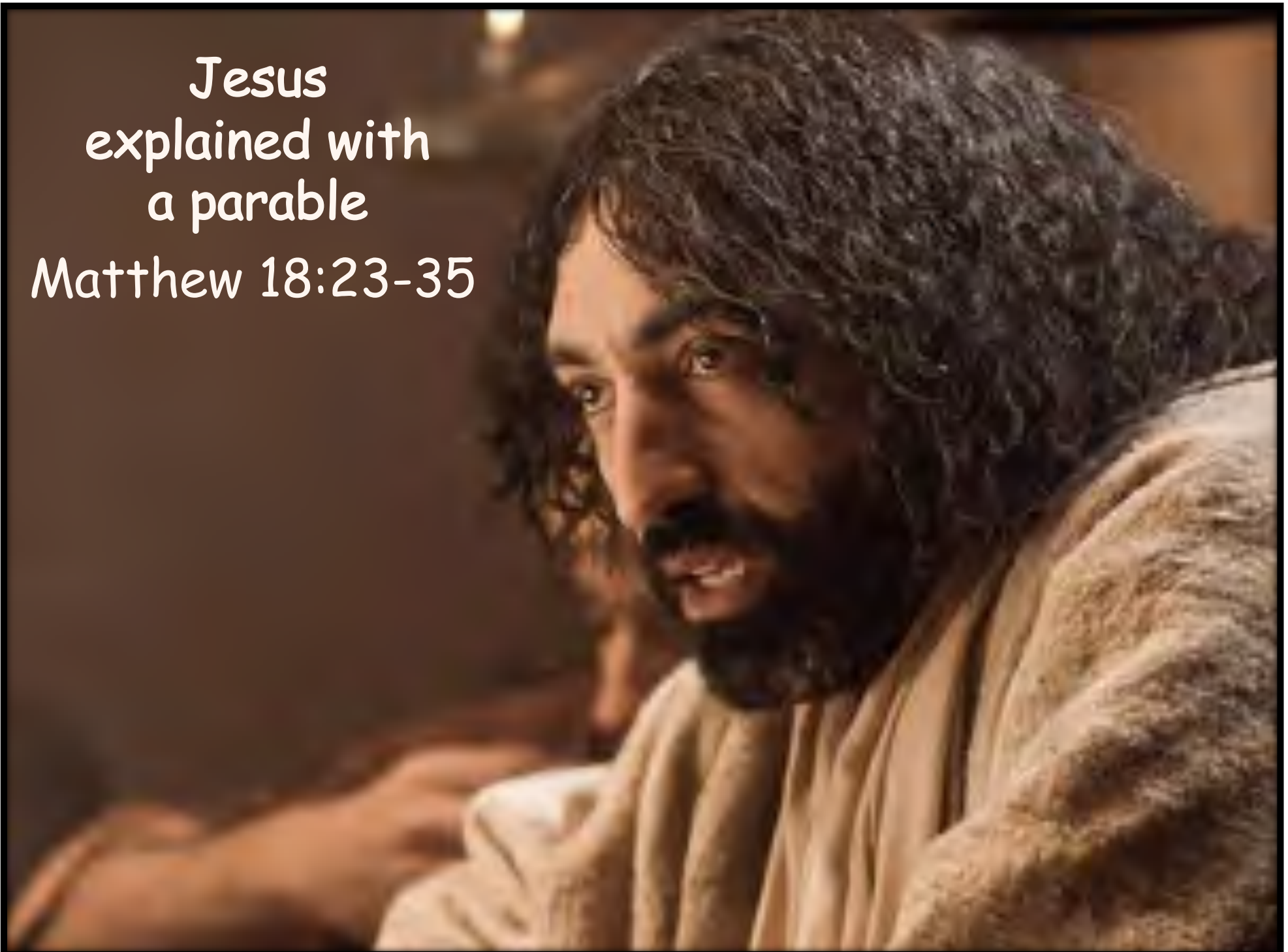


Jesus
explained with
a parable
Matthew 18:23-35

I do not say to you
seven times,
but seventy times
seven.

Why it's
important to
forgive others

Jesus
explained with
a parable
Matthew 18:23-35



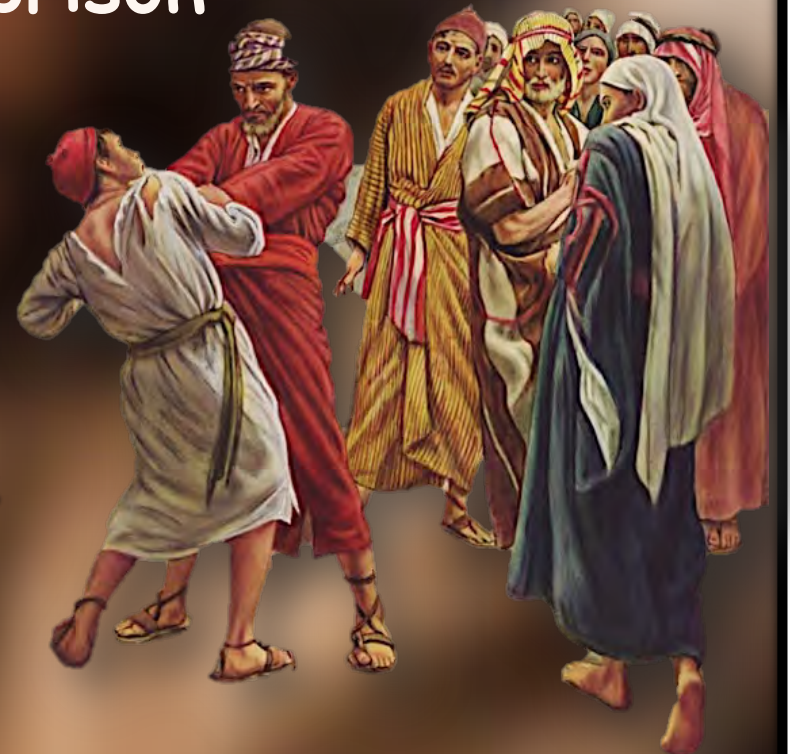
- ◆ The king held his servants accountable
- ◆ The servant owed 10,000 talents (40 kg each)
- ◆ The servant had no means to pay
(60 million workdays: 192,000 years of wages)
 - ◆ He was sentenced to prison
(all assets were liquidated)
 - ◆ The servant pleaded for
mercy; promised to repay



The king had compassion
and forgave the
entire incalculable debt!

- ◆ The forgiven servant choked his "fellow servant" and demanded payment
- ◆ The fellow servant owed 100 days' wages
- ◆ The servant begged for mercy and promised to repay
- ◆ The debtor was thrown into prison until the debt was paid

Other "fellow servants" were deeply grieved and they informed their master



- ◆ The king resummoned the first servant
- ◆ “You begged for mercy (an extension for payments); I completely pardoned you”
 - ◆ “Your ‘fellow servant’ pleaded for mercy”
 - ◆ “You refused to show the same mercy you received”



The servant was
turned over to the
torturers until he
repaid what he owed

- ◆ Heb. 12:6,10-11
- ◆ 1 Cor. 5:5; 11:30
- ◆ James 2:13
- ◆ Matt. 6:12-15



1. God is forgiving!

Forgiveness (*aphiemi*) means no longer holding the sin against you; it is "sent away" (Col. 2:13-14).

- ✓ Psalm 103:12
- ✓ Isaiah 38:17
- ✓ Isaiah 43:25
- ✓ Micah 7:19

**WHAT DO
WE LEARN?**



◆ Romans 6:23

Sin's wages = death

◆ Hebrews 10:12

Sin's wages were paid

◆ Acts 10:43

*Forgiveness of my sin
comes as I put my
faith in Christ*

Have you
been
forgiven?

My sin

HOW

FORGIVENESS WORKS



2. You who are truly forgiven are commanded to forgive others (70 x 7) because God forgave you!

✓ Ephesians 4:32 → Forgive . . .
as God forgave you

✓ You can choose to forgive, even if the other person does not ask for it (Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60).

Forgiveness
is a sign of
genuine
spiritual life

WHAT DO
WE LEARN?



3. To refuse to forgive is costly.

- ✓ Not forgiving hurts you, your family, friends, and the church.
- ✓ Not forgiving others is sin (v. 32; "wicked").
- ✓ Not forgiving hinders your prayer life (Mark 11:25).
- ✓ Not forgiving can turn into a root of bitterness (Heb. 12:15).

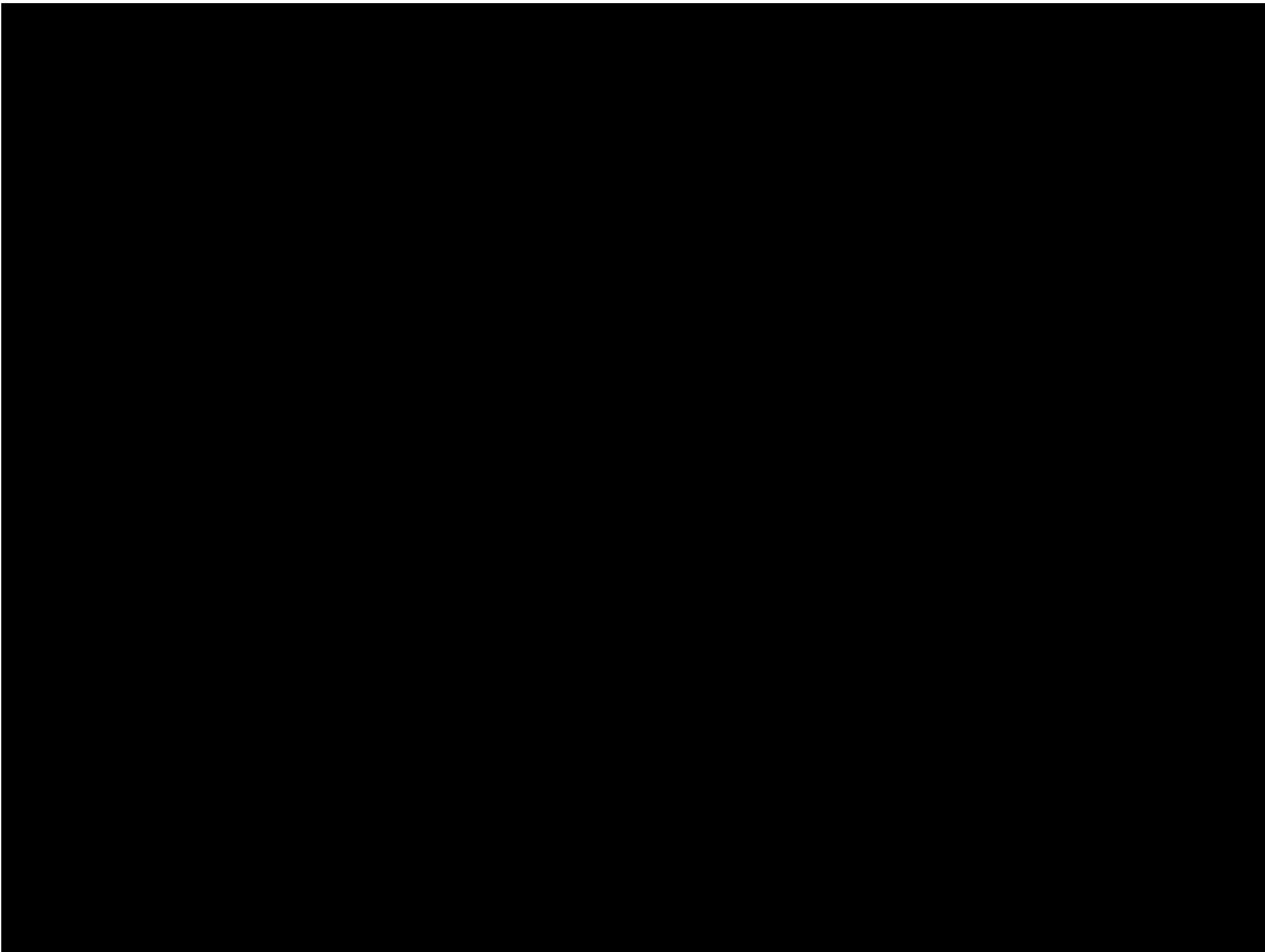
**WHAT DO
WE LEARN?**





Who do you
need to
forgive?





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