

Sacred Space Seventy Times Seven

PREPARATION

-In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit-

O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help. **Listen closely to my prayer, O Lord; hear my urgent cry.** Psalm 87:5-6

CONFESSION

Bring your confessions, and return to the Lord. Say to him, **“Forgive all our sins and graciously receive us, so that we may offer you our praises.** Hosea 14:2

ADORATION and GRATITUDE

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! **Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!** Psalm 32:1-2

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION—Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY		“No, not seven times,” Jesus
Read	Slowly, several times.	replied, “but seventy times
Reflect	What does the text say?	seven!
Respond	How does it relate to my life?	“Therefore, the Kingdom of
Rest	I welcome God’s healing and renewal.	Heaven can be compared to a
		king who decided to bring his

accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

“But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

“But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

“His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

“When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgive you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

“That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

ANCHORING PRAYER *You are merciful and forgiving.*

REVIEW OF THE HEART

Who have I forgiven? Who have I not forgiven?...Why?

WISDOM

Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends. Proverbs 17:9

Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Colossians 3:13

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” —C.S. Lewis

TESTIMONY What is God saying to me?

INTERCESSION Prayers for the Church, others, and me.

BENEDICTION

**Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love.
Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.
Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.**

-Amen-

Psalm 51:1-2

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.

Seek the Holy Spirit’s filling and

Speak and act from a listening heart.

Actively serve in community with others.