

August 16, 2026

SUNDAY REFLECTION — Grace Again

August Series: Christ-Centered Relationships

Week Focus: Grace Again

Scripture – Matthew 18:21–22 - *“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.’”*

Devotional Reflection

As you reflect on this week, consider what God has been teaching you about forgiveness—not simply as something Christians should do, but as a way of life shaped by the grace of Jesus Christ. We have examined the scorecards we sometimes carry, the bitterness that can grow from unresolved hurt, and the importance of allowing forgiveness and wisdom to work together. We have made room for mercy, refused to let hurt define us, and returned to the cross to remember how completely we have been forgiven. Through it all, one truth has remained: **Christ-centered forgiveness begins with the grace we have received and becomes visible through the grace we extend.**

Peter’s question to Jesus brings the entire week into focus: **“How many times shall I forgive?”** Peter wanted to know when he had done enough, but Jesus moved him beyond calculation toward transformation. Forgiveness would not be measured by keeping count but by developing a heart increasingly shaped by grace. That matters because forgiveness is rarely tested only once; memories return, disappointments resurface, and old wounds can unexpectedly remind us of what happened. In those moments, we can bring the hurt back to God and choose **grace again**.

Jesus demonstrated this kind of grace throughout His life and ultimately at the cross. He experienced betrayal, rejection, false accusation, abandonment, and unimaginable suffering, yet the actions of others never changed His character or interrupted His mission. His grace did not deny truth or eliminate accountability, but neither did He allow resentment to take possession of His heart. The cross reminds us that forgiveness is not weakness—it is the powerful expression of a heart surrendered to God.

As followers of Christ, we are called to allow that same grace to shape our relationships while continuing to walk in wisdom. Forgiveness does not automatically restore trust, remove accountability, or require every relationship to return to what it once was; we can maintain a soft heart while establishing wise boundaries, release resentment while allowing trust to be rebuilt, and extend mercy without ignoring truth. Most importantly, we remember that we do not stand above others as people who no longer need grace. **We are forgiven people learning how to extend to others the grace upon which our own lives continually depend.**

Today, take time to consider what God has shown you this week. Perhaps there is a scorecard He is asking you to put down, a hurt you need to release, bitterness that needs to be uprooted, a boundary that needs wisdom, or someone who needs mercy from you. Whatever God reveals, respond with obedience and carry this truth beyond this week: when the memory returns, when patience is required, when someone disappoints you, or when forgiveness becomes difficult, remember the grace you have received through Jesus Christ—and **choose grace again**.

Focus for Today

Because we have received repeated grace from Christ, we can extend repeated grace to others.

Practice

- Take a few quiet moments before God and reflect on what He has shown you this week.
- Ask yourself: **What scorecard do I need to put down? What hurt am I still carrying? Where do I need both forgiveness and wisdom?**
- Consider who needs mercy from you and whether something that happened to you has begun shaping how you see yourself or others.
- Identify the **one area** where God has spoken most clearly to you this week.
- Complete this sentence and turn it into a specific action:

“Because Christ has given me grace, this week I will _____.”

Prayer

Father, thank You for walking with me through this week and showing me the power of forgiveness. Help me put down every scorecard, release what I have been carrying, walk in wisdom, extend mercy, and refuse to let hurt define me. Above all, keep my eyes on Jesus and remind me of the grace I continually receive through Him. When forgiveness becomes difficult again, give me strength to choose grace again. Let my relationships increasingly reflect the heart of Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Final Reflection Question

When I think about everything God has shown me this week, what is the one relationship where He is calling me to live differently because of the grace I have received?