

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 3-1 Forgive Seventy-Seven Times

Peter (彼得 - 耶稣的门徒) came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, if my brother keeps on (不断) sinning against me (得罪我), how many times do I have to (我应该) forgive (原谅) him? Seven times?"

"No, not seven times," answered Jesus, "but seventy seven (七十个七次), because the Kingdom of heaven (天国) is like this. Once there was a king who decided to check on his servants' accounts (帐户). He had just begun to do so when one of them was brought in who owed him millions of dollars (几百万). The servant did not have enough to pay his debt (债), so the king ordered him to be sold as a slave (奴), with his wife and his children and all that he had, in order to pay the debt. The servant fell on his knees (跪下) before the king. 'Be patient (忍耐) with me,' he begged (求), 'and I will pay you everything!' The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave (免除) him the debt (债) and let him go.

"Then the man went out and met one of his fellow servants (同为仆人的) who owed him a few dollars (几元钱). He grabbed (抓往) him and started choking (掐住脖子) him. 'Pay back what you owe (欠) me!' he said. His fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient (忍耐) with me, and I will pay you back!' But he refused (拒绝); instead, he had him thrown into jail (监狱) until he would pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset (烦恼) and went to the king and told him everything. So the king called the servant in. 'You worthless slave (无用的奴才)!' he said. 'I forgave you the whole amount you owed me, just

because you asked me to. You should have had mercy (怜悯) on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you. 'The king was very angry, and he sent the servant to jail (监狱) to be punished (处罚) until he would pay back the whole amount that he owed to the king.'

And Jesus concluded (结论), "That is how my Father in heaven (在天上) will treat every one of you unless you forgive (原谅) your brother from your heart." -Matthew 18:21-35

2. Discussion:

1. How many is seventy seven ? Is this a magic number? Does this number itself has any significant meaning?
2. In this story, there are two servants, which of the two is more like us?
3. In this parable (寓言), what is the lesson which Jesus want us to learn?

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

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| 92. What about you? | 你呢? |
| 93. You owe me one. | 你欠我一个人情。 |
| 94. You're welcome. | 不客气。 |
| 95. Any day will do. | 哪一天都行 |
| 96. Are you kidding? | 你在开玩笑吧! |
| 97. Congratulations! | 祝贺你! |
| 98. I can't help it. | 我情不自禁。 |

4. Proverbs:

1. When angry, count ten before you speak; if very angry, count a hundred.
2. When a man forgets his age, his body is in his prime.
3. The more you have, the more you want.
4. Better slip with foot than with tongue.