

- **Grateful for the cross.**




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- A silhouette of Jesus on the cross is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a dramatic sunset or sunrise sky with warm orange and yellow tones and scattered clouds. The silhouette of Jesus is dark against the bright sky. The cross is a simple wooden structure.
- **Grateful for the cross.**

“Never, Lord!” he said.

**“This shall never
happen to you!”**

(Matt 16:22)

A silhouette of Jesus on the cross is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a dramatic sunset sky with warm orange and yellow tones. The cross is a simple wooden structure. The overall mood is solemn and reflective.

**We enjoy forgiveness
because God did things
HIS way, not ours.**

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

21 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?"

22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt."

26 "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

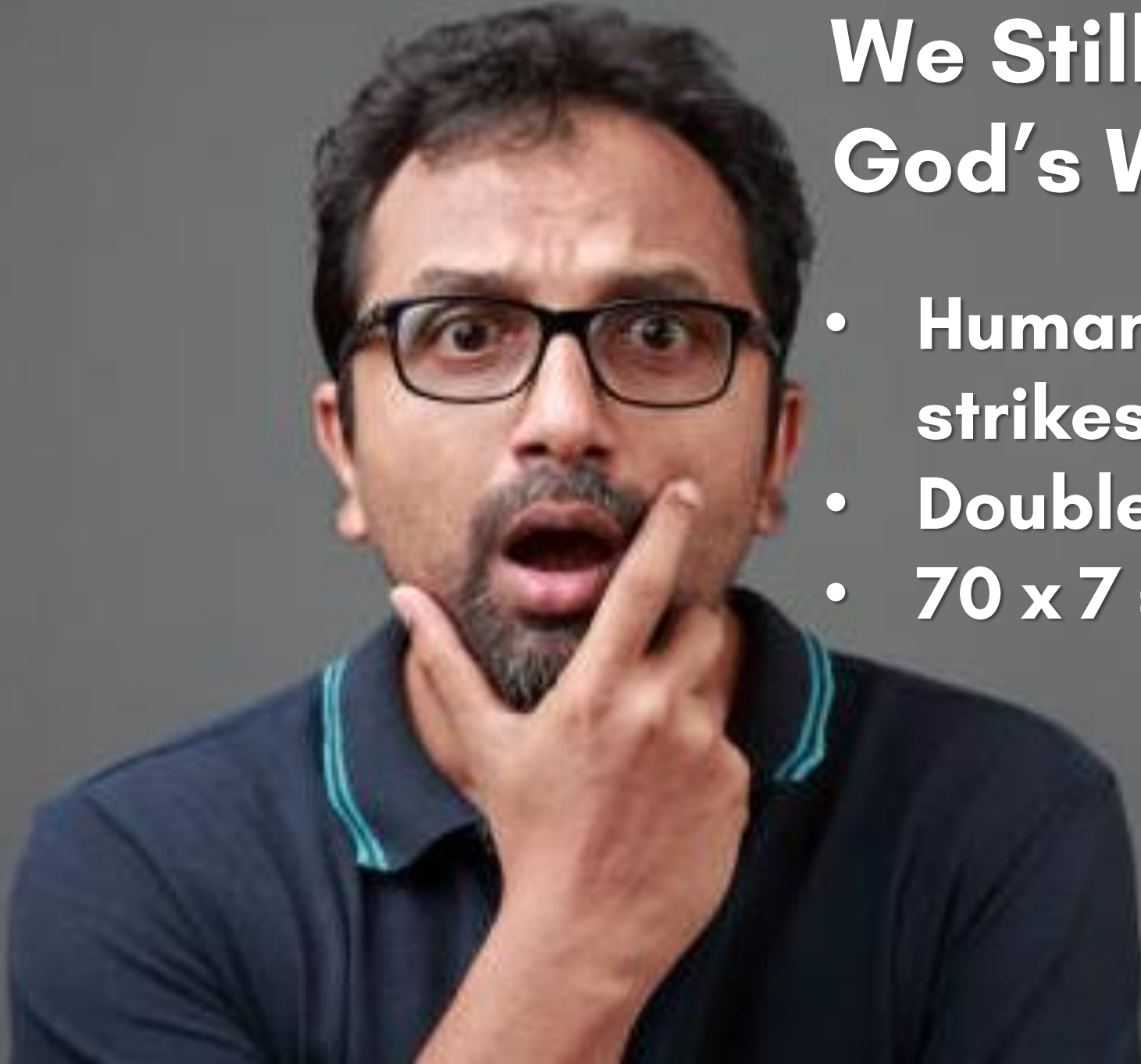
29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.


33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."



We Still Struggle With God's Ways. (v21-22)

- Human standard was 3 strikes.
- Double it +1 is good right?
- $70 \times 7 =$ stop keeping count.



**We Still Struggle With
God's Ways.**

**We need a change of
heart, not just more
rules!**

Our Experience of Forgiven Debt... (v23-34)

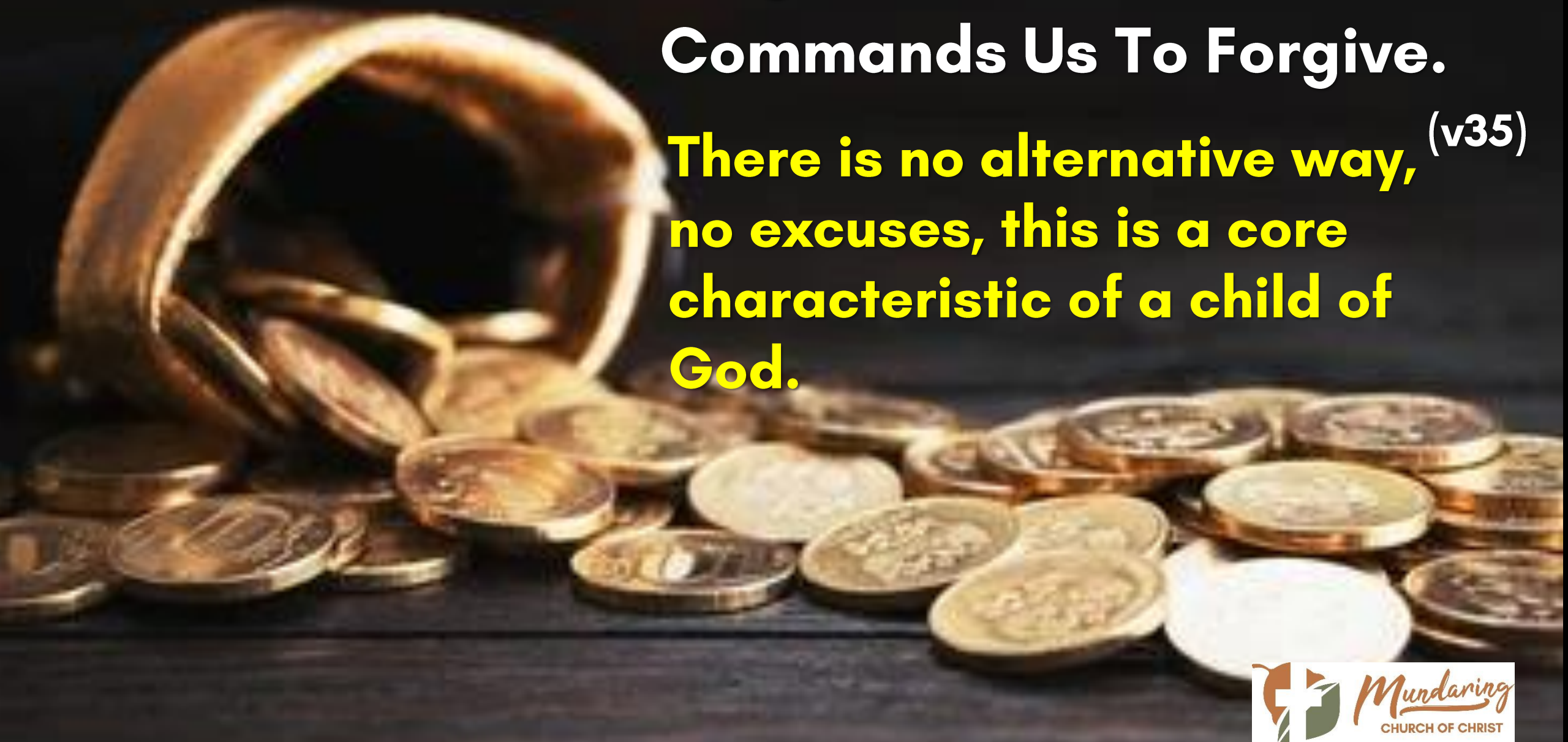
- 10,000 bags of gold!?!
- Parables use exaggeration.
- NOT teaching loss of salvation!



Our Experience of Forgiven Debt...

Commands Us To Forgive.

**There is no alternative way, ^(v35)
no excuses, this is a core
characteristic of a child of
God.**



So How Do We Learn To Do It?



1. Understand sin correctly.

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

(Psalm 51:1-6)

So How Do We Learn To Do It?



- 1. Understand sin correctly.**
- 2. Pray for your own heart.**

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...
(Philippians 2:1-8)

So How Do We Learn To Do It?



- 1. Understand sin correctly.**
- 2. Pray for your own heart.**
- 3. Pray for their good.**

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... (Matthew 5:43-48)