

Getting Ready for Sunday!

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Sunday, 17 September 2023

An illustration of two men in a heated argument. The man on the left, with grey hair and a yellow shirt, is pointing his finger aggressively at the other man. The man on the right, with a beard and a yellow turban, is wearing a red tunic and looking back with a surprised or defensive expression. The background is a simple sketch of a room with columns.

Matthew 18:21-35

The Unforgiving Servant

Peter went up to Jesus and said,

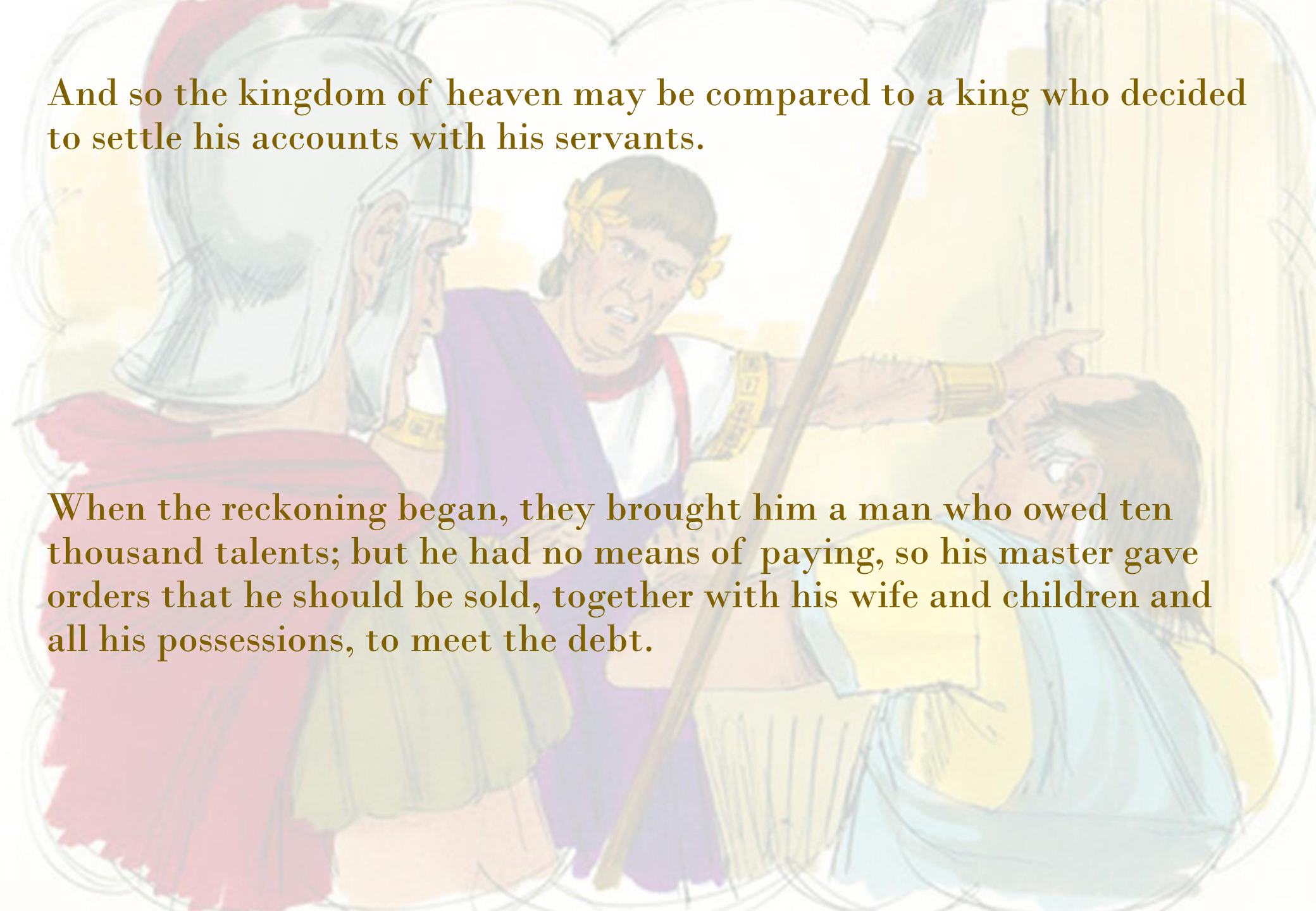
‘Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?’



Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.’

And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants.

When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt.





At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet

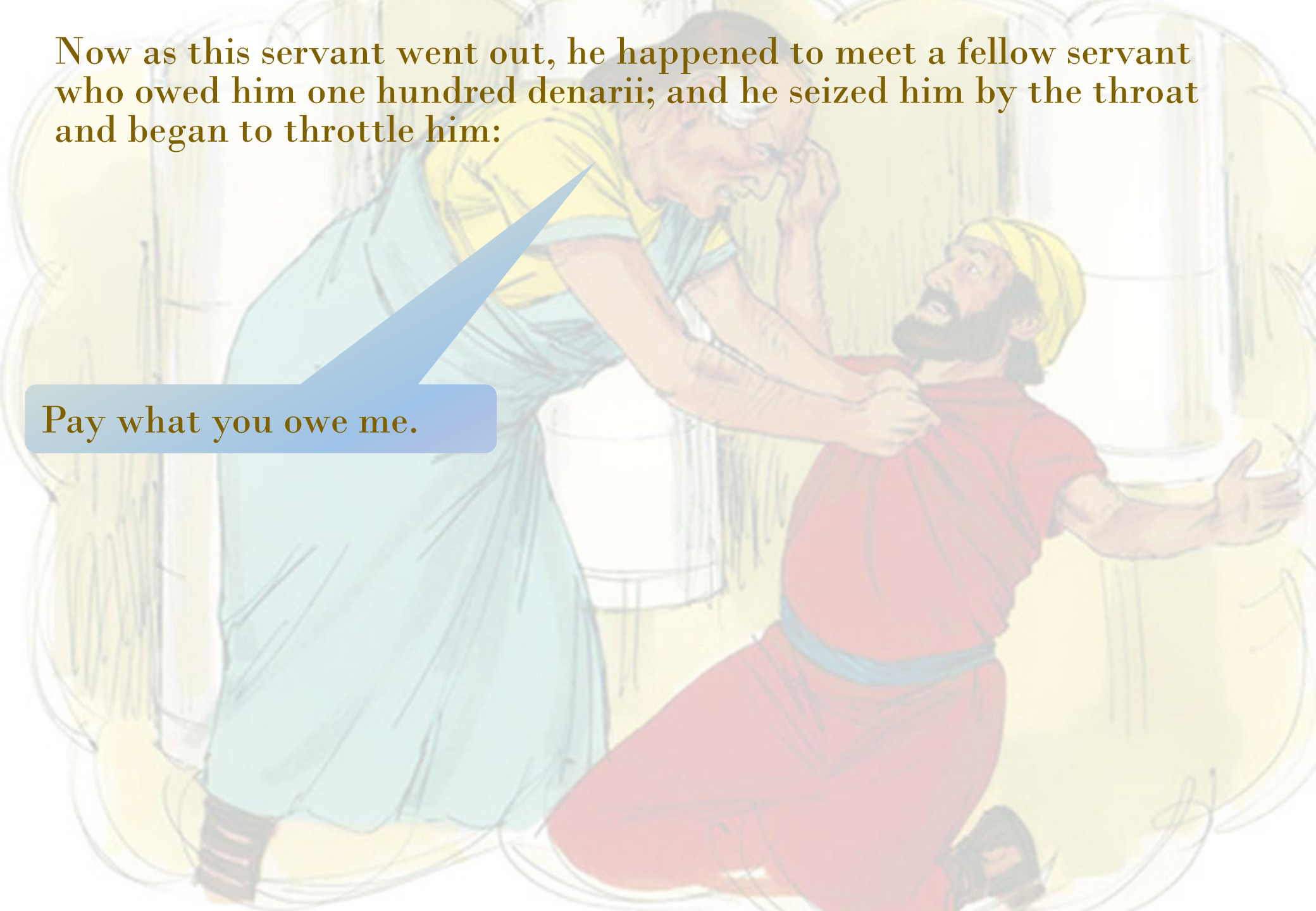
Give me time and I will pay the whole sum.

And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt.

And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him:

Pay what you owe me.

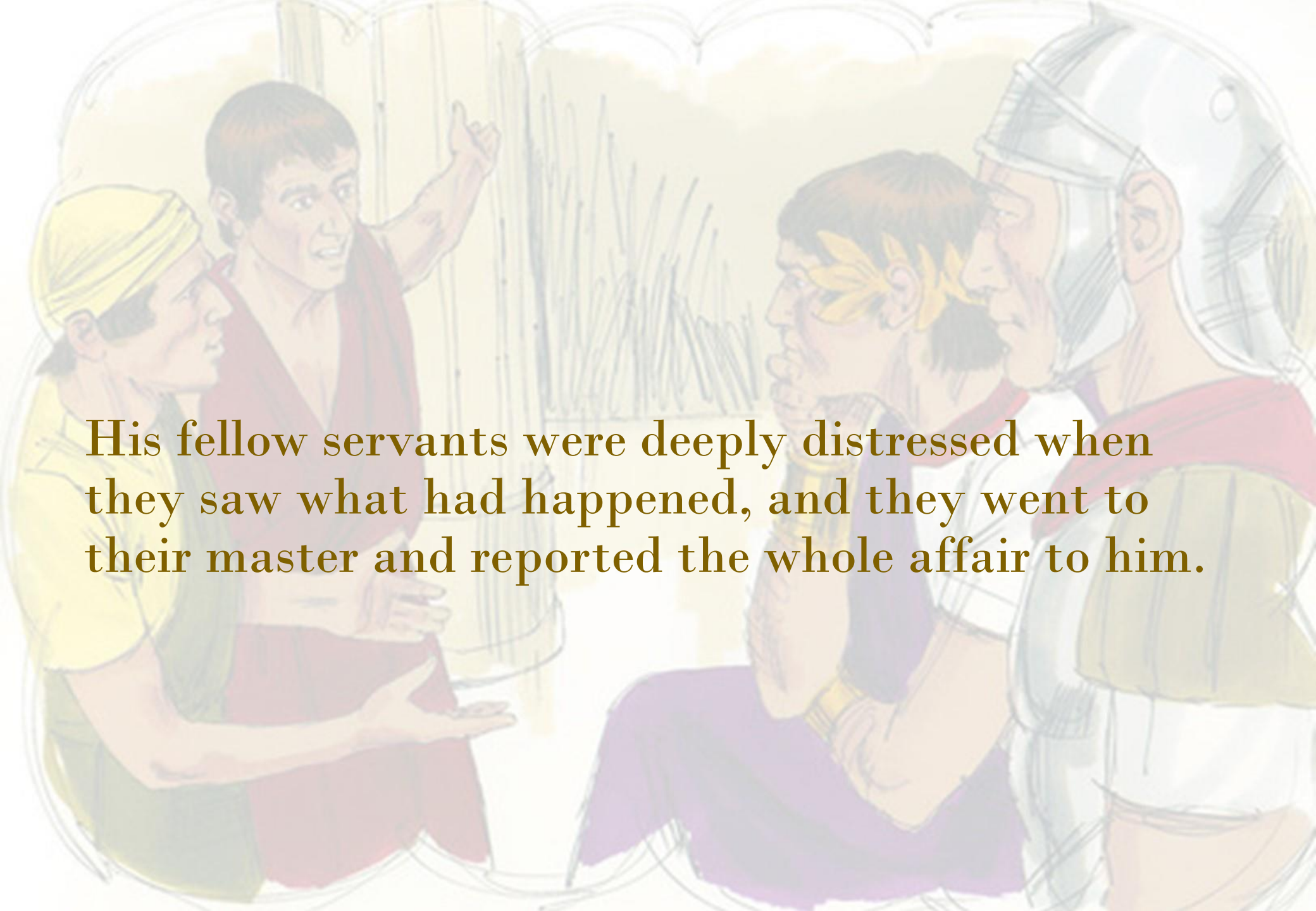


An illustration of a scene from a story. In the foreground, a man with a stern expression, wearing a yellow tunic and a blue sash, points his right hand towards a man in the background. The man in the background is wearing a yellow turban and a red garment, and is behind vertical bars, looking distressed. The scene is set in a room with stone walls and a wooden door. The entire illustration is framed by a faint, circular, sketch-like border.

His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying:

Give me time and I will pay you.

But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt.



His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him.

Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said
“I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me.
Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow
servant just as I had pity on you?”



*I cancel
your debt!*

Not me!





And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt.

And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.

Bible Search

Read Matthew 18:21-35 in your family Bible - this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



Consider

Can you accept the gift of forgiveness?
Can you share the gift of forgiveness?





Praying to Jesus

Pray for the grace to accept God's generosity to you.

Ask God to help you to let go of hurts and regrets.