

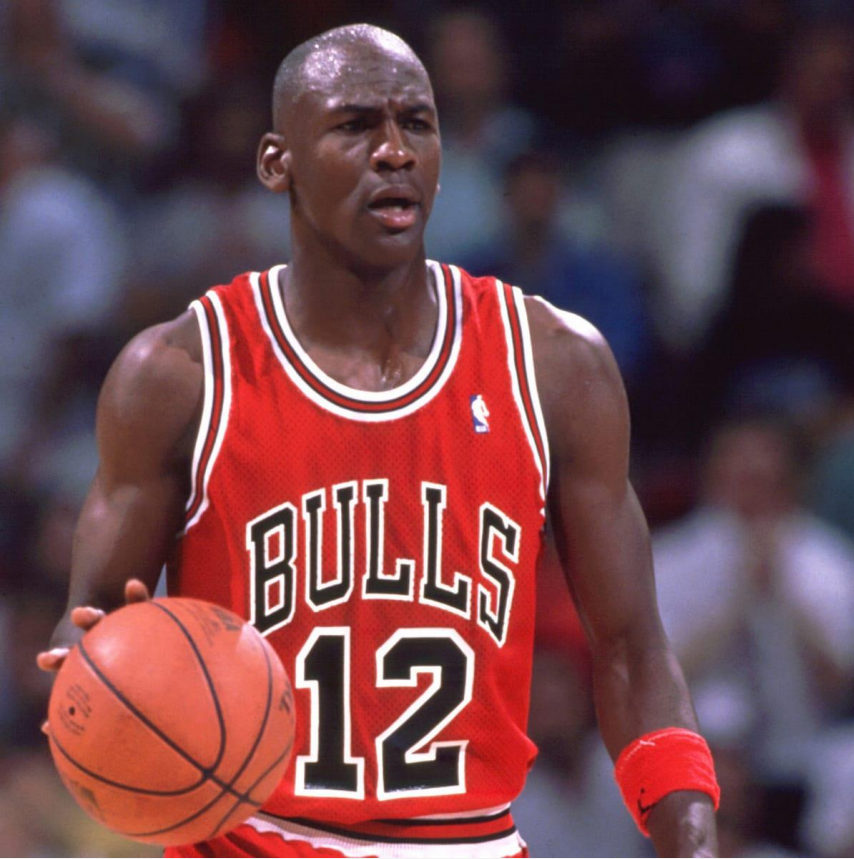


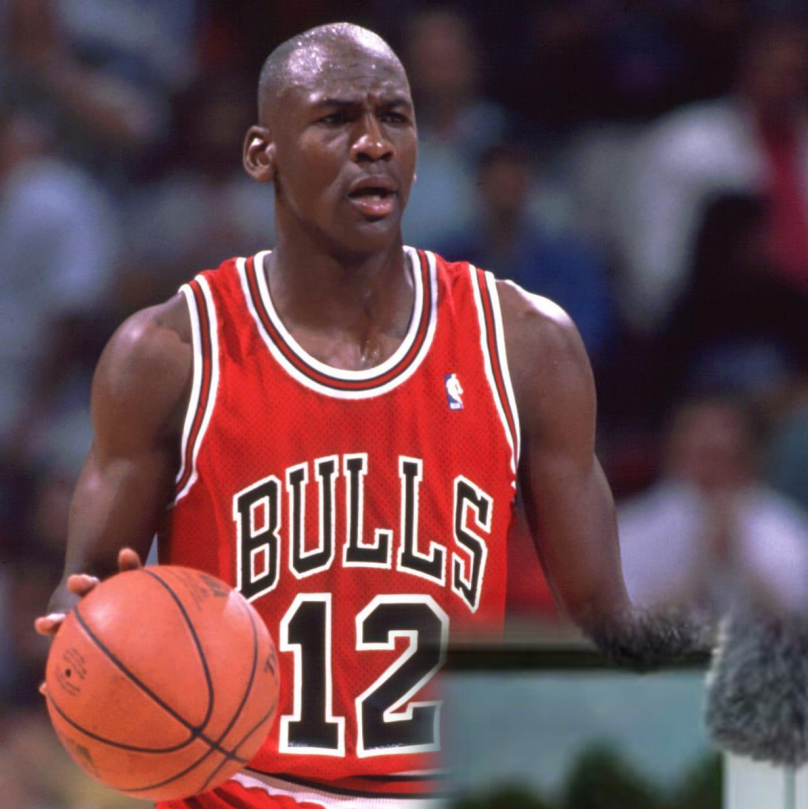
# How Do I Keep on Forgiving?

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Matthew 18:21-22  
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# Introduction









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**Definition of forgiveness:** to dismiss or release (Matt.4:20—“*left their nets.*”). My personal act to release the one who sinned against me from my personal right to collect on that moral debt for his offense, giving it over to God for His justice and mercy.

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- Forgiveness may be able to happen without repentance (Mark 11:25), but reconciliation cannot.







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- Distinguishing real from fake repentance:

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- In Luke 19:1–10, we read the story of Zacchaeus and he made amends: *“Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount”* (v. 8). And Jesus confirmed the authenticity of Zacchaeus’s repentance: *“Today salvation has come to this house”* (v. 9).

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- When the thief on the cross repented, he said to his companion, *“Do you not fear God? . . . We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve”* (Luke 23:40–41). And Jesus commended his repentance by assuring him of his salvation: *“Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise”* (Luke 23:43).

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  3. They Don't Expect or Demand Forgiveness

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- Distinguishing real from fake repentance:
  1. They Make Amends
  2. They Accept Consequences
  3. They Don't Expect or Demand Forgiveness
- They give time and space to heal