

24TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

Eccl 27:30 to 28:7

Rom 14:7-9

Matt 18:21-35

HOMILY

We have a bothered Peter.

He is feeling itchy about forgiveness which prompts him to ask a very significant question: ***“How often should I forgive my brother if he wrongs me?”***

As we see here and elsewhere Jesus took every opportunity to stress the Importance of forgiveness.

The parable Jesus gives us today shows that people have no problem with forgiveness **[as long as they are on the receiving end.]**

- Whenever we do wrong our desire is to be forgiven.
- But whenever we need to forgive others, it becomes a totally different matter.

We are not at all that quick to forgive, as we want to be forgiven.

REASONS WHY WE SHOULD FORGIVE.

Jesus gives three illustrations or reason why we are to forgive.

1. Because God Has Forgiven Us

The unforgiving servant had been forgiven by the king.

In the passage we hear the King say: ***“I forgave you all that debt because you begged Me.”***

The reason we need to forgive others is because God has forgiven us. Because we have been forgiven by God we need to learn to forgive others.

Let us pick a clue from any moment we had been forgiven.

This should be a help to us to be more forgiving of others.

- If we don't feel the grace of God, then we're not going to be gracious to others.

- If we don't feel set free, then the last thing that we want to do is to help set others free. That is just a part of our sinful nature.

Let us forgive because God has forgiven us.

2. Resentment Doesn't Work

In the story the unforgiving servant ran unto the debt of the other person ***‘until every last penny had been paid.’***

- Such an unforgiving spirit resulted to his own prison sentence.

Resentment is no different. – it leads us to the prison sentence!

- Resentment is very self-destructive.
- Resentment always hurts us more than the person we are resenting.
- Resentment, for certain works against us
- ❖ We can't be waiting for ever for the last penny to be paid.

3. Because We Need Forgiveness

Which means that forgiveness is a two-way street. We can't expect to be forgiven if we are unwilling to forgive.

This is exactly what Jesus says at the end of the “Lord's Prayer”

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14-15)

The most freed kind of human beings are those who never forget to forgive!