

Sunday 13th September

A thought on Matthew 18. 21-35



What a challenging Gospel reading. Why did Peter suggest 7 times? Maybe that was how many people he knew he had hurt? Or did he choose, knowing that this was a perfect number in the sight of God? We just do not know.

I suspect Peter was hoping for a direct answer –‘Yes, 7 is the correct number’. But no, instead Jesus says not simply 7 times, but 77 times. Goodness that is a lot of forgiveness! I wonder, was Peter surprised? Was he disappointed? Was he worried?

How do we forgive another? Is our load lighten when forgiveness is given? Do we forgive, but at times still bare a grudge? Does it take us a long time to place our hurt, our resentment into God’s hands?

God does not expect us to deal with these hurts and resentments on our own. God walks with us, encourages us and over time, gives us the grace to let go and hopefully to also forgive the one who hurt us. However, what we need is patience in this process and that can sometimes be challenging.

So what are we to do?

We need to keep coming back to God and ask him to help us to forgive. God wants us free of this burden, this pain. God is with us and He will answer our prayers!

May we place all our burdens, our anger and our pain in God’s hands. This will lighten our load immensely and it also will free us!

However, will we, do we, trust in God completely?

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