



Lenten Reflection for Wednesday, March 9th

Zach Parkman

You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

Matthew 18:21 - 35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Forgiveness...something that I am so grateful for when it is bestowed upon me, yet often so hesitant to offer up to those that have wronged me or I perceive to be in my debt.

But the scripture here tells me that that is immaterial. Peter even asks Jesus, "How often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Seven is the number of completion or perfection. Peter is asking if he should completely forgive his wrong doers. And Jesus replies that he should not only forgive them seven times, but seventy seven times. That when I think I have completely forgiven someone, I should do it again and again and again. Not just completely, but completely completely.

Because that is what was given to me. Complete forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus, regardless of how many times I may falter, fail or fall. If I feel called to walk in the way of Christ then I must try to reflect that image back out into the world around me by giving to others what was freely given to me.



Zach Parkman lives in Kensington with his wife Kim and their 2 children Adelaide and Gideon. They have been attending This Little Light at Holy Apostles since 2019.