

Thought for the day – Thursday 18th March 2021

By Revd John Ohen

Forgiveness

Forgiveness: Matthew 18: 21 -35.

Forgiveness is an essential part of our daily life. We often talk about forgiveness in our Lord's prayer. However, it is not always an easy thing to do.

The Christian apologist C. S. Lewis said that "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive".

Remember the parable of Unmerciful servant, where the servant owed the king a lot of money and was let off, but the servant could not show comparable mercy to some other person who owed him so little. This parable is all about our own dept of sin. Here forgiveness and dept are closely related idea. We can look at it in another way, that we cannot understand forgiveness unless we understand the debt we owe.

When we experience an offence, its is easy, and sometimes understandable for some of us to nurture anger, nurse resentment, and hold on to old grudges, however these things are never good for our lives. The Holy Spirit is there to show us another way, giving us the grace to forgive from the heart those who offend or hurt us. May we believe, and trust, that the Holy Spirit can transform us that we may find the grace to forgive. Prophet Ezekiel 36:26 said, " I will give you a new spirit, and I will take out of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Jesus' teaching on forgiveness is radical and demanding. Jesus, teaching and coming into our world is mainly about the forgiveness of sin. However, Jesus is the one who said that we have to forgive others not just 70 times but seventy times seven or rather unlimited. How many of us are prepared to forgive unlimited times? Forgiving in such a way that we remember the sin no more? That is the problem. We must remember that forgiveness is not a theory or an idea, it is a necessity.

In all of this we need God's help.

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 18: 21 - 35

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, cleanse my heart in the power of your Holy Spirit. I repent for the times I have behaved like the harsh servant and forgotten the mercy of forgiveness you have shown me. Help me and give me the grace and wisdom to be able to forgive when it is so hard, and help me to remember it no more. AMEN.