

Monday 18th September 2023



In God's love we live, learn and grow



Monday 18th September 2023  
Twenty -fourth Sunday- Ordinary Time  
Matthew 18:21-35

Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he, his wife, his children, and all that he had to be sold to repay the debt.

“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged and I will pay back everything. ‘The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

‘But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

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‘His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

‘But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

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‘This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

The the master called the servant in. You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger, his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

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The Bible tells us:

Forgiveness can be one of the most challenging aspects of Jesus' teaching, however much we might think of ourselves as a loving and tolerant person, particularly if we feel we've been wronged.

Nelson Mandela spent 27 years of his life in prisons, enduring many hardships and unable to attend the funerals of his mother and son. Yet when he emerged from captivity, he wasn't driven by feelings of bitterness, revenge and hatred towards those who'd taken away his freedom. Instead, he sought to build a new South Africa with a selfless message of reconciliation and forgiveness, telling his people "You will achieve more in this world through acts of mercy than you will through acts of retribution".

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Nelson Mandela also observed “Reconciliation does not mean forgetting or trying to bury the pain of conflict but working together to correct the legacy of past injustice”. May the spirit of reconciliation not only bring an end to conflicts, but also a just resolution of differences, so all may live in lasting peace.

Through our campaigning and prayers to end to conflict and injustice, may we be witnesses of Christ’s message of forgiveness.

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### Bidding Prayers

We pray for those affected by the earthquake in Morocco and the floods in Libya. May God give them strength and hope and may they receive the practical help they need. Lord hear us.

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We pray for the Church; that God will give all Christians a spirit of listening, so that we may receive God's word and have the courage to put it into practice.

Lord hear us.

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That God's mercy and refuge may surround countries and communities torn by war, violence and natural disasters...  
Lord hear us.

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We pray for the Church; that God will give all Christians a spirit of listening, so that we may receive God's word and have the courage to put it into practice  
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Lord Jesus, you taught us to forgive one another.

May all peoples of our world learn to see each other as a brother or sister to be loved. Where there is conflict, may true reconciliation and healing bring about lasting peace.

Amen.

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