

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



Matthew 18:21-35

'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'

'Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'

Reflection

Peter thinks forgiving someone seven times sounds generous. Jesus goes even further, teaching that forgiveness should not be counted or limited. Through the parable, Jesus reminds us that we have all received mercy from God, and we are called to show that same mercy to others.

Forgiveness does not mean pretending that hurt never happened or that actions do not matter. It means choosing not to let anger and resentment take control of our hearts. As Vincentians, we are called to see others with compassion, recognising that everyone makes mistakes and everyone deserves the chance to begin again.

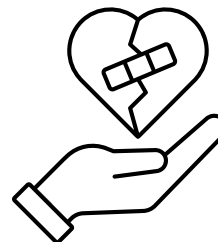
In our families, friendships, schools, and communities, forgiveness can be difficult. Yet it is one of the most powerful ways we can reflect God's love and help build a kinder world.

Materials needed

- Strips of paper
- Pens
- Stapler/glue

Activity

Give each person a strip of paper. Ask them to write one word or phrase that helps people forgive and rebuild relationships, such as patience, understanding, listening, kindness, or second chances. Link all the strips together to create a paper chain. As the chain grows, explain that every act of mercy strengthens our community and connects us more closely to one another.



Call to Action

This week, show mercy to someone by offering a second chance, letting go of a grudge, or choosing kindness instead of holding onto anger.

