

FR.TK REFLECTIONS 24th SUNDAY YEAR A 2020.

FORGIVENESS

Last Sunday we had the extremely sensitive theme of FRATERNAL CORRECTION, which is still very fresh in our memory. Now we take the next step which is *FORGIVENESS!* The theme is clear and straightforward, we MUST FORGIVE. FORGIVENESS is most difficult in our lives as human beings and more so as Christians.

Our readings today ask us to reflect on FORGIVENESS .

Our first reading speaks of the DESIRE TO TAKE REVENGE and the REFUSAL TO FORGIVE who has wronged us, thus making us unworthy of God's MERCY and FORGIVENESS.

The Gospel on the other hand, tells us the story of one *DOUBLE-FACED CHARACTER who is pleading, to the extend of throwing himself down, pleading to give him time to pay his DEBT* and the good Master ended up cancelling his BIG DEBT. What a good master! Then the man showed no mercy to his fellow servant. Imagine *SEIZING his throat and squeezing the hell out of the poor fellow servant in demand of the payment after he had been forgiven his debt. He pleaded for Mercy and it was granted to him and forgiveness followed. He ought to have extended the same to his fellow servant.*

Each of us stand in need of God's mercy and forgiveness and are called to extend the same to those who have wronged us. We should not be like that character who acted in such an inhumane manner.

Do we not do the same to others really?

Do we not go to God seeking for MERCY and FORGIVENESS?

Do we not keep on remembering what others have done to us, wronged us?

Do we not keep on seeking revenge thus not forgiving?

Do we really show gratitude to God for forgiving us by forgiving others and forgetting?

Do we not prove UNGRATEFUL by forgetting the numerous times we have failed to forgive our offenders and those who have wronged us?

Are we not moved by COMPASSION and MERCY like our Heavenly Father who is always merciful and forgiving knowing the fact that his mercy has *NO LIMITS or BOUNDARIES?*

Obviously, none of us can go through life without being HURT.

People LET US DOWN, GOSSIP, *SLANDER*, BETRAY our CONFIDENCE, and become STUMBLING BLOCKS in our life. How do we react to these?

Do we seek refuge in SELF-PITY, DEFENSIVE, thus resulting in *REVENGE, RESENTMENTS, BITTERNESS and ANGER* which most of the time remain in our souls, making PERMANENT LODGING and RESIDENCE in us, thus leading us to BEING UNFORGIVING?

We need to clean our inner souls of the extra BAGGAGE which, most of the time, is too expensive to carry and too HEAVY, burdening our SOULS, depriving us of *SLEEP, APETTITE* and PEACE.

Lack of forgiveness is the main cause of those SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, STRESS, and DEPRESSION. It is just too DRAINING and EXPENSIVE TO HATE. Whenever we forgive, we experience great FREEDOM and RELIEF.

We need to devote our energy in loving once more. Forgiveness works wonders to both parties; sets the debtor free of REMORSE and GUILT to experience the JOY of being forgiven.

Forgiveness gives PEACE, JOY, UNDERSTANDING, and creates NEW RELATIONSHIPS.

We MUST FORGIVE WITH HUMILITY. It clears the path for God's forgiveness and mercy.

The only OBSTACLE we can put in the way for God's forgiveness is INABILITY to forgive.

ONE WHO DOESN'T FORGIVE AND LOVE IS LIKE A LAMP THAT DOESN'T GIVE LIGHT.

LET US FORGIVE ALL and ALWAYS LIKE OUR LOVING, MERCIFUL, AND FORGIVING FATHER.