

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 24th SUNDAY YEAR A 2023:

Last Sunday we had theme on **fraternal correction**, something we love **to do but don't care to receive** am sure it is still flesh in our minds, today's gospel is about **forgiveness something we love to receive but find it hard to do ourselves**. The theme is clear and straight that we **must forgive**.

Our first reading (sir.27:30-28:7) speaks of **desire to take revenge, refusal to forgive who has wronged us**, Sirach is saying **forgive the mistake of others and you may ask that your sins may be forgiven(28:2)**. if we don't forgive are we really worthy of God's **mercy and forgiveness?** If we all insisted on an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth principal, everyone in the world would be **blind and toothless**. The call is forgiveness and not revenge.

The gospel (Mt.18:21-35) tells of the sad story of this double faced character who is asking, pleading for forgiveness to an extent of throwing himself down pleading for time to pay his debt. The master ended up cancelling the big debt thus **forgiving him**. The forgiven person in turn showed **no mercy to his fellow servant** who owed him small debt and even struggling him. He ought to have extended the same treatment he was accorded by his master. Is this not happening in our society and our world today, **we want to be forgiven but we don't want to forgive!**

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 act in a human way not like that character. The prayer of **our father says it all forgive us our faults as we forgive those who have wronged us! Do we actually do that**(something to reflect sincerely on your own as you say this prayer).

We go to God seeking mercy and forgiveness let us do the same and stop reviewing bitterly what others have done to us. God has forgiven and is forgiving big debts as compared to trivial grudges to hold to one another. Let show **our gratitude to him by forgiving showing mercy and**

compassion like our Heavenly Father whose mercy has no **limit or boundary**.

None of us can go through life without being **hurt, people letting you down, gossiping, slandering, betraying our confidence** and becoming our **stumbling block in life**, yet we are called to bear with each others situations. It is only through the **grace of God** we can manage. Let us not seek **self pity, defensive methods, bitterness and anger** which will result to in having **permanent resident and lodging in our hearts and minds** thus making us slaves of ourselves creating **anxieties** giving us **extra excessive baggage of thinking about others** which are truly expensive to carry.

We need to **clean our souls and minds of extra baggage of unforgiveness they are too heavy**, burdening our souls depriving us of **sleep, peace and even appetite**.

Lack of forgiveness is the main cause of **sleepless nights, stress, leading to depression**. It is actually too **draining and expensive to hate**

Whenever we **forgive we experience great freedom and relief because a burden has been taken away**. we need to devote our energy in **loving rather than hating**. forgiveness's works wonders to both parties it sets the **debtor free of remorse and guilt and experience the joy of being forgiven and the the person forgiving is released of tension and gains his/her freedom of association and peace**.

Forgiveness restores **peace, joy, understanding and creates new relationships**.

We must forgive with humility thus clearing Gods forgiveness and mercy, the only obstacle we can put in His way forgiveness is **inability to forgive**.

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