

September 17, 2017 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord, may we know your forgiveness in our lives!

Sirach 27:30-28:7

Psalm 103:1-4,9-12

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

In the first reading Sirach notes that the sinner cherishes wrath and expects forgiveness, nourishes anger and expects healing, refuses mercy and yet expects it. If one will remember there will be last days, the time to change is now. Be kind and forgiving and overlook the faults of neighbors and things will be easier with you.

The Psalmist comes to prayer with his whole being, his whole soul and blesses the Lord's holy name. The Lord deals with us mercifully; he pardons our inequities and redeems us from a destructive life. These are benefits we should not forget.

In the second reading Paul makes it clear that we are the Lord's and we live and die for the Lord. Christ lived, died, and was brought back to life and is therefore the Lord of the living and the dead.

In the Gospel Jesus emphasizes that we are to continually forgive our brothers and sisters from the heart because this is what our heavenly Father expects from us. The merciless servant who was forgiven much is brought to harsh justice, a lesson Jesus wants us to remember.

Forgive

The Father forgives our inequities,
The Son forgives our sins,
The Holy Spirit guides us to forgive the shortcomings
of our brothers and sisters.

The Father of all mercy understands our hardships and difficulties and makes use of these obstacles to come closer to us. The psalmist knows the Lord continually forgives and renews us in such a way as to remind us how we are to act with our neighbors. Sirach understood this and clearly tells us to be gentle and forgiving if we expect to be treated similarly. Jesus says forgive, forgive, forgive, lest you find yourself in the position of the merciless servant. Think of a hard feeling you may have towards someone and let go of it.

None of us are perfect, none are an island to themselves, none have perfect wisdom, none are called to have harsh judgments; rather we are called to be patient with each other, comfort each other, instruct and admonish one another in positive and constructive ways, and this may require thoughtful considerations before actions are taken.

"Brothers, even if a person is caught in some transgression, you who are spiritual should correct that one in a gentle spirit, looking to yourself, so that you also may not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:1-2).

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