

Reading Sunday 13th September
Matthew 18: 21-35 Forgiveness

This reading continues Jesus' teaching on forgiveness.

In the first 2 verses Peter asks Jesus how often he should forgive – Jesus tells him that he has to forgive not seven times, but seventy times seventy – so there is no end to his forgiving.

This is then followed by the parable of the unforgiving servant. You may well be familiar with the story. A master calculates that one of his slaves owes him ten thousand talents – and initially was going to deal with him harshly, but after the slave pleading, the master forgave the slave all his debt.

However, after this, the slave met a fellow slave who owed him money. He dealt with man harshly, and did not forgive him. Once the master heard about this, he was very angry, and tortured him. Jesus tells his listeners that he will deal with anyone in the same way, who does not forgive with his whole heart.

How do you feel about forgiveness ? Do you always forgive with your whole heart ? I don't think it is always easy to forgive, particularly if it has caused deep hurt to those you love.

I know that Jesus died so that all our sins could be forgiven, and we know that he always forgives us if we are truly sorry for what we have done – but do we always forgive those we feel have sinned against us or those we love. I know I sometimes find it very difficult to do this, and have done in the past. It is very hard to live up to what Jesus expects from us

Jesus reminds us in this reading, that there should be no end to our forgiving as Jesus had. We know this is very often difficult to do, but we should not give up. Jesus never gives up on us, so we must never give up in living as he would wish us to.

Take care and stay safe. With love and blessings Jill Gollins xx