

October 27th, A.D. 2013
The Twenty-Second Sunday After Trinity
(The Feast of Christ The King)
Gospel Meditation

From the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
Chapter 18; Verses 21 - 35
(1928 Book of Common Prayer, Pages 221 -222)

Jesus' parable tells us of the need for us to forgive our neighbor's offenses against us if we expect God to forgive our offenses against Him.



Introit Hymn;

*“ If thou, O Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who may abide it?
For there is mercy with thee, O God of Israel.” (Psalm 130)
“Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord : Lord hear my voice” . (Ps. Ibid.)*

Forgive Our Brothers and Sisters

Today's Gospel parable really gets to the heart of our relations with one another; and therefore with our Lord Jesus Christ and His Heavenly Father. In today's parable, we see that the servant's debt was very large. To save himself he appeals to and begs his master for more time, in which to repay the debt. The master, moved with compassion, not only grants the servant time, he forgives the entire debt that is owed. Shortly after, the servant meets one of his fellow servants who owes him an insignificant sum of money. He throttles the poor fellow, and refuses to even listen to his pleas for mercy, and casts him into prison to languish.

The other servants hear of his actions and report him to the master. The master has the servant hauled before him, calls to the servant and says: “ *O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me ; shouldst not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee?*” And so the master, being extremely angry, hands the wicked servant over to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

Then our Lord makes the application of the parable real to us saying: “ *So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*”

Jesus, with purpose, makes the wicked servant's actions seem ridiculous. There is first of all, the contrast between what he owes (ten thousand talents) and what his fellow servant owes (a hundred denarii). Great mercy has been shown to this servant ; *he* refuses a small mercy. We are easily inclined to condemn this wicked servant until the thought strikes home: *Wait...I am the wicked servant. What he does once, I do repeatedly.*

Again and again our Heavenly Father forgives us the sins we commit against Him. Every time we beseech Him, He releases us from the payment that we owe Him. Then, we run into someone who has offended us, *and we refuse the forgiveness that compassion and our vocation compels us to grant, if we are truly to be Christ-like.* Our conduct is even more despicable than that of the wicked servant; for owing money can never compare with sins committed against Divine Majesty. Besides, the wicked servant was unforgiving only once. The Father always forgives us : we often, over and over, refuse to forgive.

Have Patience

Our Lord wants to do more than just point out the inconsistencies of our conduct and make us ashamed of ourselves. He wants to warn us now, while there is still time, that an unforgiving attitude towards our neighbor can slowly destroy our peace of mind now, and in our life with Christ eternally. A heart that cannot forgive (and forget as well) will eventually become weighted down with the heaviness of this self-made baggage, and slowly, over time will lose sight of the Glorious Vision that awaits us all. Such hard-heartedness, causes one to turn into themselves, and by doing so, turns away from Christ and His Heavenly Father...the only source of true liberation for a weary soul. We are reminded; “*While we have time, let us do good unto all men.*” (*Gal. Ch. 6, Vs. 10*).

No one can enter Heaven without having learned to forgive. Unless we learn charity, we too, will inevitably hear the words of the Master: “ *So likewise shall my Heavenly Father do also unto you, if you do not each forgive your brethren from your hearts.*”

The failure to forgive, it seems, is not a sign of weakness in our nature, so much as other sins might be. It is usually a deliberate and cultivated action, springing from hurt feelings and a wounded pride. This means that we haven't quite grown up into adult maturity as followers of Christ. It means that we are still far from having Jesus as the single inspiration of our lives. Let us take to our comfort and encouragement the words of the psalmist: “ *O Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another.*” (*Ps. 90*).

O Lord, You say that we must be forgiving. We know in our hearts that we must be forgiving. But in practice, we go on as before. We are not asking that You take away our freedom so as to force us to be merciful. But we ask; Have patience with us, open our eyes to the glory of a forgiving heart, for then we shall be like unto You Who prayed from the cross: “ *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*”

“ My soul hath longed for thy salvation, and I have a good hope because of thy word....O be thou my help, O Lord my God.” (Psalm 119 – Communion Verse)

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

So Will My Heavenly Father Do Unto You.

**Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory
4 Shaw Road
Raymond, Maine 04071**

Sunday Public Mass with the Office of Terce to follow: 8:30 a.m.

Please Note: (Fr. Kevin visits & administers Holy Communion at the Veteran's Home in Scarborough, Me. every 3rd Sunday of the month, that Sunday, Mass begins at 6:30 a.m.).

Please Note: We are now into late October, and mornings are cool in the Chapel. Please make sure to dress warmly if you plan to attend Sunday Mass.

Holy days and Saints days for the week of October 27th to November 3rd, A.D. 2013 as observed at the Priory.

Sunday, October 27th **CHRIST THE KING -- (22nd Sunday After Trinity)**

Monday, October 28th **Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles.**

Tuesday, October 29th*comm. .St. Elfleda, Abbess of Ramsey, England. 10th cent.- (Daily Holy Living)*

Wednesday, October 30th.....*feria*

Thursday, October 31st**ALL HALLOW'S EVE**

Friday, November 1st **ALL SAINT'S DAY – - - - - Novena for the Departed Begins Today**

Saturday, November 2nd.... **ALL SOUL'S DAY** *Novena*

Sunday, November 3rd**23rd Sunday After Trinity** *Novena.....comm St. Winifred, V.M.*

Please feel free to copy and send this Meditation to anyone you think may benefit from it !

From the Holy Rule of St. Benedict

Chapter 7 – On Humility, Continued:

The Sixth degree of humility is that a monk (or nun) be content with the poorest and worst of everything, and that in every occupation assigned to him/her, they consider themselves a bad and worthless worker saying with the Prophet: “ I am brought to nothing and I am without understanding; I have become as a beast of burden before You, and I am always with You.” (Psalm 72 (73), Vss. 22-23).

By the emptying of ourselves completely...we can let Christ in more fully.

Annual Novena for the Departed November 1st to November 10th, A.D. 2013



As we approach the end of the liturgical year, we are called by Holy Mother Church to remember those in our lives who have gone before us. In this regard, we are blessed with one of the oldest and most praiseworthy of Catholic traditions. The Church has long recognized the ancient practice of praying for the souls of the dead as a worthy work of charity and faith.

November is a month in which the Church prays for the dead in a special manner. This tradition of remembering the dead continues here at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory in Raymond, Maine. While the dead are prayed for throughout the year, an urgent emphasis is placed on these prayers at this time. All unnecessary work ceases here during this nine-day period so we can focus more time for prayer intentions for the blessed dead.

Beginning on All Saint's Day, November 1st, a “Novena” of nine days of Masses and prayers is begun at St. Oswalds' of Northumbria Oratory...the monastic chapel of the Priory. These prayers are offered on behalf of the dead. Prayers will be offered according to the Medieval monastic customary

on behalf of our departed brethren and for our deceased friends and benefactors. Along with these prayers, three Masses will be celebrated for the departed: on *November 1st – All Saint's Day*, *November 2nd – All Soul's Day*, and on *November 9th*, to close out the Novena period. This is for us, at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory, a grace-filled time of prayer and intercession...a time in which you, too can take part.

I invite you to enroll your departed loved ones and friends in this Novenas by listing their names and either e-mailing them to us, or via “snail mail” to the Priory address; (4 Shaw Road, Raymond, Maine, 04071). Any contribution you may wish to send to the Priory will be most welcomed and gratefully appreciated, but is not a requisite to take part in this Novena. Any gifts received will go to the operating expenses of the chapel (candles, communion wafers, etc.) unless otherwise specified for the animals. To assist us in getting the names you may wish to submit onto our rota in time, please be sure to get your list to us by October 31st.

As we offer our prayers of the Requiem Mass, those whom you have enrolled will solemnly be remembered this November. What better way, than through the Holy sacrifice of the Mass to beg our Lord's loving mercy and admission of the departed into His Presence forever.

“ While we have time, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them that are of the household of Faith.” (Galatians, Ch. VI, Vs. 10 ...1928 BCP – Pg. 72)

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Kevin L. LaMarre, O.S.B. +
Prior, Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory

REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED - ALL SOULS DAY

The precise time of when the practice of praying and offering Masses for the dead is not known, but Tertullian (160 A.D.) writes that the early Christians held a yearly commemoration of the faithful departed. Towards the end of the 10th century St. Odilio, Abbot of the Benedictines at Cluny, France, directed the yearly commemoration of the faithful departed should be observed on the 2ND of November with prayers, alms, and the Sacrifice of the Mass which time and manner of celebration spread through various dioceses, and was officially approbated by Pope John XIX. This day was appointed that, having the day previously rejoiced in the glory of the saints in heaven, we should on this day most properly pray for those who may yet be doing penance for their sins, and may look to us, the living for assistance by way of our prayers, alms-giving, and reception of the Most blessed Eucharist.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord ; And let light perpetual shine upon them.

P A X