

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Mt.18:23-35

Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses (KJV)

Our daily relationships reflect our relationship with God. If we are serious in our relationship with God, we will do our best to put into practice God's teachings on relationships.

The current Gospel shows the king had compassion on his servant. The king forgave the servant's debt. The servant was not equally compassionate to one of his fellow servants. Rather the fellow servant was imprisoned until he could pay a debt.

The Gospel teaches that God expects forgiveness in personal relationships as God forgives. Believers are reminded of the importance of forgiving each other in the Lord's Prayer.

Each year, forgiveness in personal relationships is the primary theme at the beginning of Great Lent. Each person sins and is in need of God's forgiveness. Each believer sins in personal relationships in the home, at work and in the community.

Forgiveness is a Christian attribute founded in Christ and taught by Christ. Practicing forgiveness requires deep faith in Christ and the wisdom of Christ's teachings and example.

Love for Christ and love for the people in daily life becomes evident when forgiveness is practiced. Families are stronger and more joyful when parents forgive each other and are forgiving of their sons and daughters.

Sons and daughters are healthier when they are forgiving of their parents and their brothers and sisters. Workplaces are more productive when forgiveness occurs among workers and employers.

The Gospel has very practical benefits in real life. Serious believers take the Gospel teachings to heart and apply them daily. The Church wisely proclaims the Gospel and uses the Gospel as a primary basis for teaching.

Believers are blessed to hear the Gospel with regularity. Believers are equally blessed to have the opportunity to repent and begin anew in personal relationships. Practicing forgiveness is a way to strengthen personal relationships and renew them.

Relationships rooted in Jesus Christ grow and mature with time. Love increases among individuals forgiving each other and being beneficial to each other. Jesus Christ shows love for each person and expects believers to be loving in relationships.

The Church teaches believers through the year and through the course of life the way relationships are to grow and mature. Attentive believers heed the Gospel lessons throughout the year and make them a part of daily life.

The believer is intended to grow in Christ and in personal relationships from infancy until departure from this life. New beginnings are possible at every age in life. Jesus Christ provides the wisdom, forgiveness, mercy and love for new beginnings.

God's Holy Church welcomes persons desiring to begin anew. New and experienced believers need repentance and new beginnings during the course of life. All believers benefit from Christ's forgiveness.

Forgiveness lifts a great weight from the believer and frees the believer to go forward. Jesus took the weight of the Cross upon Himself as a supreme act of love. Jesus' followers benefit by putting aside personal pride and actively forgiving others.

Each person can make a difference in the home, the workplace and the community by seriously practicing forgiveness. Too much callousness and hardheartedness exist in today's world.

The Gospel today is intended to make a change in the world. Each person heeding the present Gospel has the opportunity to put forgiveness into practice. The Lord Jesus Christ will give each person the strength and wisdom to be forgiving.

Recipients of forgiveness have a responsibility to carry out forgiveness in future relationships. The present Gospel shows the initial servant when he was forgiven, did not demonstrate the same forgiveness with his own servant.

Being a Christian is for all of life from the time of Holy Baptism until departure from this life. Every moment is to be lived in ways pleasing to the Lord God. The Church is where to undertake, foster and develop the Christian life.

Christ is present in the Church. The Church has the wisdom of the ages to draw from in guiding contemporary believers. Thank God for the present Gospel and for each proclamation of the Gospel.

Thank God for the lessons of love taught in the Church. May each proclamation of the Gospel lead to better human relationships. Let each person do his or her part to reduce the rancor and increase the love in this world.

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Hieromartyr Irenaeus of Lyon. Holy Martyr Lupus. Apodosis of the Dormition. August 23/September 5, 2021.
Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic