

Monsignor's Corner



How Many Times Should I Forgive? One of the most difficult challenges we face in life is the ability to forgive and to be forgiven. We have countless examples everyday of people who live without forgiveness.



Families and friends are torn apart because we can't forgive. Bitterness – Hostility – Grudges that we carry with us for years and years; never letting the anger, and never letting go of the hurt. Meet an angry person and you will meet a person who has been hurt.

Letting go of that hurt is not something that we generally are able to do, easily. Not letting go cripples us, deforms us. Think of the cripples in the Gospel and the Lepers deformed and cut off from community life and family. I am certain they were asking God why? Not just about the physical reality of their lives, but also why they were not able to be a part of the community. I am certain they were feeling hurt and a subsequent anger.



So often we carry “prejudice,” “bigotry,” “bias” toward others; unleashing it on others. Think of the people Jesus met – the woman caught in adultery – the “good” people wanted to stone her. Think of the prodigal son who left home (maybe today the prodigal is the son or daughter on drugs, the street kid, and the lost one), the “good” son was angry. In each case - forgiveness received and forgiveness offered - was the key for all the players.

Jesus teaches us to let go of our fears, to remember that each person is the Beloved of God and to allow forgiveness to be given even more than seven times.

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