

Foundations of Faith (A Catechism for Today)

Lesson 34 – August 20

Question 93: How are God's forgiveness of our sins and our forgiveness of others related?

It is exceedingly difficult to forgive. Yet when we are forgiven by God, and helped by the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to forgive others. We are to forgive even as we are forgiven. The Christian community is called to be an oasis of forgiveness in the contemporary desert of resentment and rage, vengeance and hatred.

Mt 18:21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

Mt 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Lk 6:27-28 "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."

Lk 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Ex 34:6-7, 32:32

6 The LORD passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The LORD ! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. 7 I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations."

32 But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, erase my name from the record you have written!"

Num 14:18-19 'The LORD is slow to anger and filled with unfailing love, forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion. But he does not excuse the guilty. He lays the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations.' 19 In keeping with your magnificent, unfailing love, please pardon the sins of this people, just as you have forgiven them ever since they left Egypt."

1 Kings 8:39 then hear from heaven where you live, and forgive. Give your people what their actions deserve, for you alone know each human heart.

Ps 103:3 He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.

Mt 18:23-35 "Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. 24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. 25 He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. 26 "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' 27 Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. 28 "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He

grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. 29 “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. 30 But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. 31 “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. 32 Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ 34 Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. 35 “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Mk 11:25 But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too. ”