

Today's Gospel introduces the parable about the need to forgive: **always forgive!**

To the man who has questioned him, asking him if it was enough to forgive seven times, Jesus answers: "seventy times seven", that is "always".

**Why is this continuous forgiveness necessary?**

**Because this attitude makes us similar to the way our God Father lives toward us.**

This attitude is positioned, is measured, is in harmony with God's feeling, which is always willing to forgive us.

And, in the truth, it is measured along with the way we feel towards God; this means that we hope, we believe, we think, we know for sure - through Revelation - that God is willing to always forgive us.

**What would our life be without the hope of being accepted and forgiven?**

**What would our spiritual life be, if we thought that it weren't possible to be reinstated to God's love beyond a certain limit?**

As long as we are in this life, as long as we are able to ask for forgiveness, we can be sure that we will be reinstated to God's love.

Therefore, **why should we deny this to our brother**, who longs for, yearns for, wishes for the same thing that we wish for?

**Why should we think that for him God's forgiveness is enough and ours is not needed?**

But we could also ask ourselves: **why aren't we able to always forgive?** To completely forget?

What prevents us from having the same attitude as our celestial Father?

There are two answers to this question:

- either it is the Devil who is misleading us
- either it our pride that is imprisoning us

As far as we are willing to have the same attitude as God, as Jesus suggests – “be as merciful as Your celestial Father” –, we are freed from our pride and from the Devil.

One last consideration.

If Jesus himself points out – in his teachings, in his suggestions, in his commands – the need of being as merciful as our celestial Father, can we disregard this command?

*Be as merciful as your Father*

Homily, 17th August 2017

Mat 18,21-19,1

father G. Papparone o.p.

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**How could we feel as disciples of Jesus, his friends and confidants, if we disregard or don't consider this call?**

How can we think of being well accepted by Him, if we refuse to do what He asks us to do?

Let's ask the Lord to help us develop this attitude of mercifulness.

Certainly, we are not able to do this, but we can ask for it in our prayers, and we can obtain it through a constant supplication.

Do we think that the Lord doesn't want to give us this gift, to grant us the miracle of being merciful? He who died to grant us a new heart?

**It's just the hardness of our heart, our pride, the Devil, that can lead us to think in this way!**

God wants to give us a real heart, a big heart, but do we want this heart?