

Today's first reading shows us true repentance. In true contrition, in the holy pain of having sinned, the truth of God's heart also appears. Our true enemy, the devil, has always wanted to disfigure the true face of God. No sin is above the love of God. The tears of our repentance wash our eyes so that we can clearly see the loving face of God.

The debtor asked the master: "Be patient with me." Through this parable, Jesus shows us that like that master, he is "moved" when we ask him to be patient with us. For example, when we cannot abandon certain sins that we struggle with during our lives when after many attempts we are still caught in the same sin. Or when we refuse to obey an inspiration from the Spirit, Jesus is patient. And, if we fall into serious sin, still, Jesus is patient. He knows that our spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. He is always near, ready to forgive our sins.

The closest thing to forgiveness is creation. Forgiving is not pretending that something did not exist, because no one can erase from memory those memories that hurt him. Forgiving is helping someone to be new. It is a lot like creating. And the one who has the power to make all things new is God. So forgiveness is infinite. The reason is because forgiveness does not depend on the forgiven but on the one who forgives. The love and power of the one who forgives is inexhaustible. So there are no limits to forgiveness.

What do we need to forgive our neighbor? We need an open and willing heart to lean on God. We cannot do it alone, especially if the wound is deep and anger is still present. We are called to do good for the other. We are called to repeatedly forgive him to the best of our ability. Finally, we are called to trust that the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ will fill our hearts as we exercise this difficult divine obedience.

May we learn to be patient with others, as Christ has patience with us. May the Lord help us to forgive not only seven times, but seventy times seven.