

Homily

Last week the words of the Lord Jesus invited us to the correction as brothers. Always seek that our neighbor returns to the path of God and that he can remain in the community celebration. That must be the characteristic of the Christian community.

This week, the Lord Jesus himself is going to propose not only a theme, but a practice: forgiveness. We have talked, read and written a lot about asking for forgiveness and knowing how to forgive. It is no secret to anyone that humanly it is an "action" that requires a lot of humility.

But let's see what the Gospel tells us.

The teaching of Jesus is the consequence of a concern of Peter. He was concerned about "the limit of forgiveness"; his expression speaks of number, of quantity, but Jesus, because of this concern, will teach him that it is not about quantity, but of quality.

Jesus could have answered Peter's question with "Always. You must always forgive". But the Lord wanted to make it even clearer what forgiveness consists of and why we must forgive.

With the Parable, there is not only a comparison but a true experience of mercy.

The request of that debtor to his king: First: "Be patient" and, second, "I will pay you back" make the king feel sorry for him. The king could have waited and been patient, but his compassion is greater and that is why he forgives all that debt.

In this part of the parable we see the gratuitous forgiveness that God has with us. Not only is he patient, but he is compassionate when we are truly sorry, because God's forgiveness is a manifestation of his great love for us. That is the act of God; that is how God is.

But let's see the other part of Jesus' teaching: how the human being acts. That man who was forgiven many times represents our way of acting with respect to our neighbor.

The problem with that man of the gospel was that he did not know how to accept forgiveness. The proof is that he does not pass it on, he does not share it with that other person who owed him less. Love and forgiveness need to be embraced so that they can transform us.

For us Christians, forgiveness is not a denial of error but a participation in the healing and transforming love of God that reconciles and restores. It is breaking the chain of hate, with love.

Responding to evil with good, this is what changes reality, society.

Bearing in mind the vision of "being unworthy" of God's love, of his forgiveness, should make us reflect that we are not perfect and we are wrong, and that God hears our plea for repentance, thus managing to forgive us. That is the same way that we should treat our brothers.

Practicing what was received, forgiving because we have been forgiven, is the challenge that Jesus teaches us this week. No one is a master at it, but we are all "apprentices" of this practice.

To the question, can God forgive me? The answer that Jesus offers us is "Yes", it is enough to have a good penitence, because forgiveness does not come from what we ask for, but from the love and compassion that God feels for us.

Deep down, when God forgives us, he tells us that he continues to believe in our capacity for transformation and that we can be better. Forgiveness heals and restores.

If we are concerned about how many times we should forgive, perhaps what we should ask ourselves is how deeply we should love our brothers, just as God loves us.

In Christ

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