

09-17-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Forgiveness means to release, to let go of the other. Forgiveness is not denying our hurt...
Forgiveness is a possibility only when we acknowledge the negative impact of another
person's actions or attitudes in our lives...”

- Charlotte Dudley Cleghorn



Romans 14:1-12 ✠ Matthew 18:21-35

Questions for Reflection —

- When/how in your life have you experienced the grace, mercy, and loving forgiveness offered by God? How has that experience subsequently impacted and informed your ability and willingness to forgive others? What does it look like to live a life of forgiveness in a society and world beset by violence, oppression, and injustice?

- When/how in your life have you received forgiveness from another person? Do you find it easy or difficult to seek and accept forgiveness from others? Why is that? Are there things in your life for which you have struggled to forgive yourself? What does it mean to you to know that God offers forgiveness for those things? What will enable you to finally let go and forgive yourself?

- In what ways has forgiving another person been a freeing experience for you? Do you ever tend to limit the extent of and/or place conditions on the forgiveness you offer to others? By contrast, what does it mean to truly forgive someone from your heart? Is there someone whom you presently find difficult to forgive or is there a past hurt or resentment that you cannot release? What do you need in order to move further on the path of forgiveness for that person or situation?

Daily Household Prayer

Merciful God, you have rescued your children in the past and continue to do so today. We confess that we try your patience with our inconsistencies. We expect you to forgive our grossest sins, but are unwilling to forgive the petty sins of our sisters and brothers. We recount for those closest to us the number of times they have offended us, but forget the numberless times you have forgiven us. We do not have the same tolerance for others as we have for ourselves. Forgive such unevenness, merciful God. Have mercy upon us once more. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.