

Our readings today offer a way to live wisely. Forgiveness is the way....it is a healing way....and yet it is one of the most difficult of human experiences.

Sirach offers a powerful image: the one who doesn't forgive hugs tight anger, and cannot expect healing or forgiveness. Do you hug tight anger? Do you replay an experience over and over again in your mind? Do you try to forget about it, push it down, and attempt to go on with your life as if nothing happened? It is a common experience.

The gospel tells the story of a man who was forgiven his very large debt. He turns to his servant who owes just a little and refuses to forgive the debt, failing to pay it forward. St. Paul tells us that we do not live for ourselves. We live for Christ – and all whom Christ loves, which is everybody.

Recall a time that you received or extended forgiveness. How did that help your healing process? Were you relieved of a heavy burden? Did you feel free to love again, to live again?

Forgiveness doesn't happen overnight. It may take years to forgive. Today let us pray to begin the process, learning to walk the way of forgiveness in our everyday lives.