

Lectio Divina

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- **Read and re-read**, out loud and slowly the Gospel
 - **Meditate** on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life
 - **Pray** - Thanksgiving - Repentance - Petition
 - **Action** - Attitude (Call to change / to act / to do)
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September 7th 2014 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A - Matthew 18 : 15 - 20

In this week's gospel we see the way Jesus deals with conflict. He goes through a series of procedures starting with those which will cause the least hurt. He then gradually moves to more severe ones always making sure that the others have been tried and failed. The setting of this teaching is not in a court of law but a human community. Jesus always preached love rather than tolerance and he has promised us he will be there in the midst of all those who call on him for assistance.

How have you experienced the presence of Jesus in his followers gathered together in community?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for sending us people who show us how to handle quarrels. Like Jesus they do not lash us in an abstract way but walk with us when we have to deal with a problem.

Forgive us when conflicts arise, we make them public too quickly instead of taking time to sort them out privately first.

Help us Lord to remember that love will always respect human freedom including peoples right to say no, even to Gods love. Todays second reading tells us 'love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour.'

