

Lectio Divina

- **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 17th 2017 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A - Matthew 18:21-35

In this week's gospel Jesus surprised Peter by asking him to forgive seventy-seven times. Hurts and wrongs are part of human relations so each one of us may have to forgive many times in our lives and it is not always easy. Jesus is always there to help us if we trust and believe he understands our human condition. True forgiveness is from within. It is God-given, a matter of forgiving from the heart.

Who are the people whose ability to forgive has inspired us?

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.

