

February 26, 2008
Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Daniel 3:25, 34-43

Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9

Matthew 18:21-35

"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

This question implies to me an attitude held by the questioner that there is a point at which enough is enough. I think that deep down most of us hold that belief. I am sure that I do. I remember vividly thinking, "how many times have I told you..." in reference to many people in my life. That statement alone indicates that on some deep level I believe that "we should get it " at some point and stop doing what we are doing that is hurtful. It is a paradigm shift, a complete change in viewpoint, to simply refuse to hold anyone in resentment for anything---anything. When my grandchildren were toddlers, I used to tell them that I loved them to infinity. Do I forgive to infinity---in all cases with all people? For me, this is the radical gospel of the day.

"Forgiveness is God's invention for coming to terms with a world in which, despite their best intentions, people are unfair to each other and hurt each other deeply. He began by forgiving us. And he invites us all to forgive each other."

~Lewis B. Smedes

Forgive & Forget: Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve