

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT HOME
13th September 24th Sunday Year A

FORGIVE EACH OTHER

A reading from the Good News told by St Matthew

Peter asked Jesus, 'Suppose someone does me wrong, how often must I forgive them?'

Jesus answered with this story: 'There was once a rich king, who decided to call in all the money owed to him. One man owed him thousands of pounds. He couldn't possibly pay back, so the king ordered that the man and his wife and children should be sold as slaves and everything he owned too, until the debt was paid. The man threw himself at the king's feet, 'Give me time,' he pleaded, 'and I'll pay back every penny I owe.' The king had pity, cancelled the whole debt, and let the man go free. On his way home the man met a friend who owed him £1. He grabbed the man by the throat and demanded, 'Pay me back the money you owe me!' "Give me time," his friend pleaded. But the man wouldn't listen, and had his friend thrown into prison. When the king heard this he was very upset and sent for the man. 'You wicked man! When you asked for mercy, I cancelled all your huge debt, but you had no pity.' And the king had the man thrown into prison.'

'That's how God will treat anyone who does not forgive from the heart,' Jesus said.

So how often should Peter forgive people who do him wrong? Well Jesus' answer shows that we all do wrong by breaking God's rules of love and hurting other people. Sometimes it's things we say, sometimes it's an unkindness we do, or sometimes we just ignore others and refuse to help them. So all of us need the forgiveness of God (the rich king in the story).

God will forgive us if we too forgive others who have been mean or unkind to us.

THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

