

E-DEVOTION FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

As I mentioned earlier, I have been reading The Book of Joy, conversations between the Dali Lama and Bishop Tutu. I have found myself stuck on one certain conversation the two gentlemen had about FORGIVENESS.

We all know that sometimes it is easier to forgive than to forget. Although, if we truly 'forgive'... can it be 'forgiveness' if we never 'forget?'

The Bible is full of passages concerning forgiveness. I like the one in Colossian 3... *"Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another."*

Forgiveness may not come easily... but tolerance? That's another story! I find as I age, I am less and less tolerant. Of a lot of things. That's something to work on.

In The Book of Joy I read... "There are those who think an eye for an eye is going to satisfy. But in the end, you discover that an eye for an eye will leave the whole world blind."

When we have been wronged, especially by those close to us, forgiveness is difficult. I have struggled with forgiveness myself. I still find that when I think of things that happened in my father's family, I harbor that feeling of resentment, so I wonder if my forgiveness has been true. Maybe that's where the forgetting part comes in.

Jesus knew all about forgiveness. Remember his words... ***"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."*** As we begin our Lenten walk next week with Ash Wednesday, I am going to try to remember... remember those times when forgiveness did not come easily. And then I am going to work on FORGETTING. Because maybe sometimes when we felt we have been wronged... 'they did not even know what they were doing.' It's something to think about.

And be tolerant. Wear a mask, wash your hands, and fold them. Bow your head, ask God for forgiveness. Forgive one another. And then work on forgetting.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, increase within us a desire to forgive. And also help us to be more tolerant. Tolerant of those we are so close to and those we feel distance from. Remind us daily to open our blinded eyes to see the other side. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Pastor Ken Nyhusmoen