

## Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Week: 13<sup>th</sup> September, 14th Sunday after Trinity

**Old Testament Reading:** Genesis 50: 15-21  
**Psalm:** Psalm 103:1-13  
**New Testament:** Roman 14: 1-12  
**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 18:21-35

### Reflection on the Gospel reading:

Matthew continues to remind the early church of important bits of Jesus' teaching, spoken originally to the men and women gathered around him in Galilee, now retold to a more settled church community most likely from a Jewish background.

Like any group of people they fell out with each other, and asked guidance from Jesus as to how to maintain their common life. Today's passage is about forgiving other people, as we have been ourselves forgiven.

Jesus almost certainly used standard middle eastern stories to get across his points. Here a rich regional ruler demands his chief servants their annual money raised for him. When one asks forgiveness for a vast amount he hasn't got, amazingly the ruler grants it. But when the servant acts harshly to another member of the community, the ruler's wrath descends upon him in fairy tale fashion.

The core point is one of realising that we are forgiven and welcomed by God, generously, beyond count, and should pass on the benefit by forgiving others.

Although this doesn't give people the right to take advantage of others and then demand to be forgiven and escape the consequences!

Reflection by Alastair Wheeler

### Collect for the 14th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,

Whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence:

Give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth;

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

### Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship,  
Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.

