

“So watch yourselves! “If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.” Luke 17:3-4 NLT

[lectio] // LUKE 17:1-4

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

[meditatio]

Luke, writing Jesus' own words, brings up THE prominent relationship issue - someone is WRONG and someone is WRONGED. And, since these are “red” letters, they are super important. More than just important, it puts a finger on the pulse of pain in the family of God. We as humans hurt each other, we are not perfect. And like God, we have the capacity to forgive. Jesus talks about the steps and puts much of the responsibility on the person who has been wronged, which can be very difficult depending on one's personality. Most rarely can handle directness! It is almost as difficult as being wronged in the first place. Jesus simply says, “rebuke” like it's something we do on a regular basis. There is a catch! If there is repentance!! Forgive. The truth is, even if there is not repentance, forgiveness is STILL required because we are not wired to hold bitterness, judgment and a gossipy tongue. I wonder why Jesus didn't say it directly, you have to forgive regardless.

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I know that a time is coming where I will have to meet Don directly, head on. I will have to make my case of his sin and point out exactly where he was wrong. I will then be required to forgive and let it go. When I do, he and the crappy two years he caused will be released permanently. Every memory of pain will be covered by your grace, removing the sting and stain of hurt and bitterness. I don't welcome that day but I know it's coming because you love me and want me free. I appreciate the time to reflect on all of this.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root