

1. I have a pencil cup on my desk

No matter how big the pencil, what color, how long or how short – none have any erasures left
This means I make mistakes – a lot of them.

WE are a lot like the pencils in my pencil cup
People come in different sizes and shapes too – but we all have one thing in common
We all make mistakes – a lot of them.

That is why God sent Jesus – To die, and erase our mistakes.
When we do something wrong we can ask God to forgive us,
Because of Jesus our sins are forgiven – **And God's erasure never wears out!**

Just as God forgives us over and over, Jesus taught that we should forgive others over and over.

I was a pre-Vatican II CCD student (Srs. of St. Joe (habits) – St. Mary's in Pittsfield)
Sin = Black Mark God's big Ledger Book and He keeps track

Let me tell you something:

GOD'S LEDGER IS NOT FULL OF PERFECT PEOPLE THAT CAN GET INTO HEAVEN
IT'S FULL OF FORGIVEN PEOPLE THAT CAN GET INTO HEAVEN

2. Last week was the anniversary of 9/11

We saw images of the twin towers, their collapse, falling bodies, the terror of the day
If you're old enough we can all remember where we were, what we were doing
And years later TODAY, we hear about forgiveness – even terrorists? YUP

Forgiving is not the same as forgetting
In our relationships we're called to bury the hatchet (but don't mark the spot to dig it up later)

Peter asks JC – how many times should I forgive, 7 times? He thinks he's being generous!
JC responds, not 7 times – 77 times

Jesus is saying forgiveness should be limitless
We want ETERNAL FORGIVENESS and because of JC, that is what we have
Jesus starts this parable about forgiveness saying “The kingdom of heaven is like ---“
He ends the parable saying “So will my heavenly father do to you unless
you forgive your brother from your heart”
This is not only an exhortation – it is also a warning
(Not just forgiveness from the lips – but from the heart)

3. In today's Gospel the Servant asks for TIME not Forgiveness

King forgives the debt outright
- Payment would've been justice
- Time would've been mercy
- Forgiveness is compassion (**love**)

**Our God is a God of Love – and we are the beloved.
Forgiveness is ours – and we get to share it!!**

What this Gospel is really about is changed hearts.

The King's Heart was changed – and became merciful.
The Servant's Heart was unchanged – and was stuck demanding Justice.

As we continue with this Mass let's pray for FORGIVING HEARTS,
MERCIFUL HEARTS – Hearts that to beyond mercy, to LOVE.