

Today, on Forgiveness Sunday, we read the Gospel of Matthew 6:14-21. Jesus Christ reinforces to us the importance of forgiveness, and how in order for God to forgive us, we too must forgive each other. Furthermore, He stated that if we fast to make sure we do so without anyone knowing as our reward will be from God. He challenges us all with His words today, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

There is a clear message today from the Gospel reading; we must forgive one another so that God will forgive us. Have you ever wondered if we said part of the Lord's Prayer the following way, "Give us this day our daily bread, and DO NOT forgive us our trespasses, as we DO NOT forgive those who trespass against us?" Wouldn't this sound odd, feel odd, not fit with our worship, our vocation as Christians?

Dearest ones, forgiving one another includes those closest to us, those that have hurt us, those that love us, those that hate us, and yes our enemies. Forgiving one another in love is what makes us Christians. It is central to our journey in life, and through Great Lent we must strive even more as we move towards Pascha, that of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Where is our heart? Is it bitter? Does it hold resentment? Does it keep track of the wrongs? If yes, let us turn towards God and towards our fellow man with love. We must try to forgive and reconcile. **Forgive me; God forgives us all!** Let us open our hearts to Him in the highest who all honor, worship and glory is due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever amen.