

**Small Group Guide**  
**February 23, 2020 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 1) What is the longest you have ever held a grudge?
- 2) Which are you better at: letting stuff fester or letting stuff go?
- 3) What did you take away from this week's message (i.e., homily)?
- 4) In the first reading we are encouraged to be holy by (1) not bearing hatred for our brothers and sisters in our hearts; (2) taking no revenge and (3) cherishing no grudge.
  - a. How does each one of these steps allow you to be holy?
  - b. Is hatred more of an emotion you cannot control or a choice you make?
  - c. Why does the world seem to want revenge? Why does God discourage revenge?
  - d. If you want to let go of a grudge, what steps would you need to take?
- 5) In the gospel, Jesus reinforces the idea of not getting even by saying "*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*" Have you ever prayed for an enemy? What happened to you? What happened to them?
- 6) Have you ever forgiven anyone who wasn't sorry and hadn't apologized? How did you do it? What happened to you as a result?
- 7) Have you assumed the worst about someone's intentions (e.g., they were trying to hurt me) only to later discover you had misread the situation? How did you come to realize you'd made an incorrect assumption?
- 8) Describe a time when you have intentionally looked for the good in another in order to get along better. Did it help?
- 9) Is there someone or some past hurt you need to start praying for this week?

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**First Reading:** Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18  
**Second Reading:** First Corinthians 3:16-23  
**Gospel:** Matthew 5: 38-48

Reading 1 LV 19:1-2, 17-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them:  
Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.

"You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart.

Though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen,  
do not incur sin because of him.

Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people.

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

I am the LORD."

Gospel MT 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You have heard that it was said,

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.

When someone strikes you on your right cheek,  
turn the other one as well.

If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic,  
hand over your cloak as well.

Should anyone press you into service for one mile,  
go for two miles.

Give to the one who asks of you,  
and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

"You have heard that it was said,

You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.

But I say to you, love your enemies

and pray for those who persecute you,

that you may be children of your heavenly Father,

for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good,

and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?

Do not the tax collectors do the same?

And if you greet your brothers only,

what is unusual about that?

Do not the pagans do the same?

So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."