

Ez 12:1-12

The word of the LORD came to me:  
Son of man, you live in the midst of  
a rebellious house;  
they have eyes to see but do not see,  
and ears to hear but do not hear,  
for they are a rebellious house.  
Now, son of man, during the day  
while they are looking on,  
prepare your baggage as though for  
exile,  
and again while they are looking on,  
migrate from where you live to  
another place;  
perhaps they will see that they are a  
rebellious house.  
You shall bring out your baggage  
like an exile in the daytime  
while they are looking on;  
in the evening, again while they are  
looking on,  
you shall go out like one of those  
driven into exile;  
while they look on, dig a hole in the  
wall and pass through it;  
while they look on, shoulder the  
burden and set out in the darkness;  
cover your face that you may not see  
the land,  
for I have made you a sign for the  
house of Israel.

I did as I was told.  
During the day I brought out my  
baggage  
as though it were that of an exile,  
and at evening I dug a hole through  
the wall with my hand  
and, while they looked on, set out in  
the darkness,  
shouldering my burden.

Then, in the morning, the word of  
the LORD came to me:  
Son of man, did not the house of  
Israel, that rebellious house,  
ask you what you were doing?  
Tell them: Thus says the Lord God:  
This oracle concerns Jerusalem  
and the whole house of Israel within  
it.  
I am a sign for you:  
as I have done, so shall it be done to  
them;  
as captives they shall go into exile.  
The prince who is among them shall  
shoulder his burden  
and set out in darkness,  
going through a hole he has dug out  
in the wall,  
and covering his face lest he be seen  
by anyone.

Mt 18:21-19:1

Peter approached Jesus and asked  
him,  
"Lord, if my brother sins against me,  
how often must I forgive him?  
As many as seven times?"  
Jesus answered, "I say to you, not  
seven times but seventy-seven times.  
That is why the Kingdom of heaven  
may be likened to a king  
who decided to settle accounts with  
his servants.  
When he began the accounting,  
a debtor was brought before him who  
owed him a huge amount.  
Since he had no way of paying it  
back,  
his master ordered him to be sold,  
along with his wife, his children, and  
all his property,  
in payment of the debt.  
At that, the servant fell down, did  
him homage, and said,  
'Be patient with me, and I will pay  
you back in full.'  
Moved with compassion the master  
of that servant  
let him go and forgave him the loan.  
When that servant had left, he found  
one of his fellow servants  
who owed him a much smaller  
amount.  
He seized him and started to choke  
him, demanding,  
'Pay back what you owe.'  
Falling to his knees, his fellow  
servant begged him,  
'Be patient with me, and I will pay  
you back.'  
But he refused.  
Instead, he had the fellow servant put  
in prison  
until he paid back the debt.  
Now when his fellow servants saw  
what had happened,  
they were deeply disturbed,  
and went to their master and reported  
the whole affair.  
His master summoned him and said  
to him, 'You wicked servant!  
I forgave you your entire debt  
because you begged me to.  
Should you not have had pity on  
your fellow servant,  
as I had pity on you?'  
Then in anger his master handed him  
over to the torturers  
until he should pay back the whole  
debt.  
So will my heavenly Father do to  
you,  
unless each of you forgives his  
brother from his heart."

When Jesus finished these words, he  
left Galilee  
and went to the district of Judea  
across the Jordan.

In the first reading, the Lord has the  
prophet Ezekiel acting out the  
impending exile of the Israelites to  
Babylon. There is hope that they  
would be tempted to ask Ezekiel  
what was up with his strange  
behavior and maybe heed the  
warning. So what was wrong with  
the people? *"They have eyes, but do  
not see, and ears to hear but do not  
hear, for they are a rebellious  
house."*

Well Ezekiel is prophesizing to us  
right now, because we are a  
rebellious house. Every time we  
turn from God to do it our way, we  
choose not to see and not to hear.  
Most often, we are clueless as to  
how we impact others when we  
choose to act blind and deaf.

We very clearly see and feel  
wronged though when someone else  
in that clueless fog injures or harms  
us. We are very ready to demand  
our justice.

The king in Matthew's gospel,  
however, gives us a different model  
of justice. It is Jesus'. When I am  
wronged, do I open my eyes and  
ears to God, the one who is the  
closest to me? If so, I would see  
clearly how often I have been  
pursued by God's relentless love for  
me...all in the face of my choices  
for other than God. I forgive others,  
not so much because I am assuming  
the high moral plane, but more  
because the overwhelming gratitude  
I have for Christ's gift does not  
leave much room for self-  
righteousness.

Allow yourself to see, hear, feel and  
taste that overwhelming love God  
offers you. You'd be surprised how

much easier it would be to let go  
of bitterness and recriminations.  
**See and hear God's love.**