

Are we willing to accept forgiveness?

Are we willing to accept our forgiveness from God?

Are we willing to Accept God's forgiveness of others?

In order to accept God's forgiveness for us we will have to accept the idea that we are in need of forgiveness.

That there is something about us that needs forgiving.

Accept that we are not perfect

and

that Perfect

is the standard.

Nothing short of perfection

is acceptable.

Are we willing to accept that there is something

we need

that we don't have

that we can't be

that we can't do on our own.

Will we accept that we don't deserve the forgiveness?

Don't deserve it no matter who we are

no matter what we have done.

No matter what we might do.

No matter our achievements or  
whose family we belong to.

Except  
for the fact  
that we belong to God's family.  
will we accept  
that we receive this forgiveness,  
this gift,  
through the Grace of the giver?  
That It was nothing we did,  
nothing we said,  
nothing we decided,  
nothing we promised  
it was all a gift,  
all grace.  
It is all grace  
all gift.

To accept our own forgiveness  
is hard enough,  
It's difficult enough,  
actually

it's beyond our ability.  
So the Holy Spirit has to step in.  
And convince us.

Now  
an even more difficult quest.  
Accept that God forgives someone else  
Someone  
who is not worthy of forgiveness.

Someone, obviously undeserving.  
Someone, far from the standard  
of perfection.

They have a history  
but  
it is a history of falling short of the Glory of God.  
Short of anyone's glory.

Someone you are sure  
will only be taking advantage of God's goodness  
of God's grace.  
They will say anything,  
do anything

to receive God's grace.

But then

they will just go on doing,

go on being

what they were before.

Totally unworthy

not only of God's forgiveness

but

of God's time

of God's love.

They are so unworthy

that they make us forget

our own unworthiness.

In fact

if truth be told

we are much more worthy of God's forgiveness.

Maybe

we really don't even need

all that much forgiveness,

just give us blessings.

Yes

forget the Forgiveness

we don't really want it  
we don't really need it  
just give us a blessing.

We hear the stories of the three men,  
the younger son,  
the older son,  
the father.

It is important to recognize which one sounds more like us.

Is it the younger son?

Is it the older son?

Is it the father?

It is important to know thy self.

But it is more important to see which one God wants us to use as  
a role model. IF we ask what would Jesus do? Which person is  
the story resembles Jesus?

Jesus tells parables to help us to see the kingdom of God. This  
story shows us the kingdom of God through the father's love. It  
also shows us a bit of our selves.

More of ourselves than we would like to see.

More of ourselves than we would like to hear.

More of ourselves than we would like to know.

But as we learn more about ourselves,  
the more we are thankful  
that God he is gracious  
and merciful  
slow to anger  
and abounding in steadfast love  
and faithfulness.  
And all God's people say, Amen.