

Discernment, Forgiveness & Reconciliation

Introduction

This week's devotional follows the themes of the sermon on discernment, forgiveness and reconciliation, rooted especially in Jesus' teaching in Luke 6. It begins with a challenge many people feel every day: the difference between righteous anger at what is broken in the world and the kind of outrage that grows from pride, hurt, and the need to be proved right. Jesus calls his listeners beyond judgement and condemnation into mercy, forgiveness, and a life that trusts God with justice.

These readings are an invitation to slow down and let the Holy Spirit search the heart. Where outrage has become loud, the call is to pursue righteousness. Where hurt has hardened into unforgiveness, the call is to remember the cross and the grace already given in Christ. And where relationships feel strained or broken, the call is to take whatever steps are possible toward peace and reconciliation.

At the centre of it all is this simple truth: forgiveness has already been offered to us through Jesus. Because he has first forgiven us, his people are invited to forgive others, to release judgement to God, and to become people of mercy in a world that desperately needs it.

Day 1: Love Your Enemies

Scripture

Luke 6:27–28, 36

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you... Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Thought for the Day

Jesus does not stop at telling his followers to be polite or generally kind. He calls them to love, bless, and pray for the very people who oppose them or wound them. That command feels severe until it is heard alongside the character of God: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Mercy begins not with pretending the hurt did not happen, but with remembering that God has first shown mercy to sinners and invites his people to reflect that same mercy in the way they respond to others.

Reflection

- Who feels difficult to love at the moment—someone who has hurt, opposed, or frustrated you?
- What would it look like to pray for that person honestly before God this week?
- How does remembering the Father's mercy toward you begin to soften your response?

Prayer

Jesus, you call your people to love their enemies and to be merciful as the Father is merciful. Forgive the instinct to cling to bitterness, retaliation, or self-protection. By your Spirit, grow a heart that can pray, bless, and do good even when it is costly. Teach a deeper trust in your justice and a fuller reflection of your mercy. Amen.

Day 2: Outrage or Righteous Anger?

Scripture

Proverbs 11:14

“Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers.”

Thought for the Day

The sermon draws a careful distinction between righteous anger and outrage. Righteous anger sees a broken world and longs for restoration in line with God’s good design; outrage often starts with personal offence, disagreement, or wounded pride and quickly turns people into enemies. Because opinions are constantly reinforced online and in everyday conversation, discernment becomes essential. Wise advisers help expose blind spots and redirect the heart from the need to be right toward the pursuit of righteousness.

Reflection

- Think of something that is making you angry right now. Is the focus on restoration, or on proving yourself right?
- Who are the trusted, wise voices you can listen to when your emotions run high?
- In what areas might your judgement be shaped more by echo chambers than by truth and mercy?

Prayer

Father, you care deeply about injustice and the suffering of this world. Guard the heart from confusing righteous anger with pride-fuelled outrage. Provide wise counsellors who tell the truth with love and who point the way toward righteousness. Teach a response that is merciful, clear-sighted, and committed to restoration. Amen.

Day 3: Forgive, Because You Were Forgiven

Scripture

Luke 6:37

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

Thought for the Day

Forgiveness is one of the hardest commands Jesus gives, especially when the hurt is real and the offender has not apologised. Yet the sermon makes clear that, toward others, an apology is not required in order to forgive. Forgiveness does not deny the seriousness of harm; it names the wrong for what it is and then releases personal vengeance into God’s hands, trusting that justice belongs to him. Christians forgive because they themselves have first been forgiven through Christ.

Reflection

- Is there someone you have been waiting to forgive until they apologise or change?
- What does it mean to release that person from your vengeance while still acknowledging the wrong?
- How might forgiveness become a gift not only to them, but also to you?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you that your forgiveness was not earned, but offered through your sacrifice on the cross. Bring to mind any place where unforgiveness has settled in the heart. Give grace to release judgement, to entrust justice to God, and to forgive as you have first forgiven. Let freedom and healing begin where bitterness has taken root. Amen.

Day 4: Peace and Reconciliation

Scripture

Romans 12:18

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”[2](#)

Thought for the Day

Reconciliation is not always simple, quick, or fully within one person's control. Even so, Scripture calls believers to take seriously the part that does depend on them: humility, repentance, forgiveness, and a willingness to pursue peace. The sermon reminds listeners that followers of Jesus have the ministry of reconciliation—first to be reconciled to God, and then to carry that reconciling work into their relationships and communities. Sometimes that means a conversation; sometimes it means laying down judgement and letting God carry what was never yours to hold.

Reflection

- Is there a relationship where you sense God prompting you to take a step toward peace?
- What part of reconciliation depends on you right now?
- Where do you need wisdom to know the difference between pursuing peace and trying to control the outcome?

Prayer

God of peace, thank you for reconciling sinners to yourself through Jesus Christ. Show clearly where peace needs to be pursued and where pride needs to be surrendered. Give courage to take the next faithful step in any broken relationship, and wisdom to trust you with what lies beyond personal control. Make your people peacemakers who reflect your heart. Amen.

Day 5: Receive the Gift

Scripture

Romans 3:23–24

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Thought for the Day

The sermon ends by returning to the foundation beneath every call to forgive: the grace of God offered through the cross. Every wrong—past, present, and future—was laid on Jesus, and forgiveness has already been achieved for all who turn to him in repentance and faith. The question is not whether forgiveness is available, but whether it is being received. Those who know they are forgiven can begin to live differently: lighter, humbler, less defensive, and more ready to forgive others.

Reflection

- Do you truly believe that you are forgiven in Christ, or are you still carrying guilt he has already dealt with?
- Is there a pattern of sin or regret you need to bring honestly before God today?
- How would receiving his forgiveness more deeply change the way you relate to others this week?

Prayer

Father God, thank you for sending Jesus to bear the punishment deserved for sin and to make forgiveness possible. Bring everything hidden into your light and lead the heart into honest repentance and trust. Help a deeper receiving of the grace already given at the cross. From that place of being forgiven, teach a life of mercy, humility, and reconciliation. Amen.