

Thought for the Week
23rd February, 2020
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The season of Lent starts next week and the readings today give plenty of food for thought. The injunction not to retaliate when we are wronged can be very difficult. How many of us nurse grudges, even within our families? How often do we encounter people who are estranged from their families or friends for many years following an argument, neither party being willing to take the first step towards reconciliation. Holding on to a grievance helps neither party. Reaching out can be the first step towards a restoration and a restarting of a lost relationship.

We constantly rely on God's willingness to restore our broken relationship. We can use this pattern of unconditional love and forgiveness to guide us in our dealings with each other.

A story tells of two friends who were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, she wrote in the sand:

"TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE"

They kept on walking, until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but her friend saved her. After she recovered from the near drowning, she wrote on a stone:

"TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE"

The friend, who had slapped and saved her best friend, asked her, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand, and now, you write on a stone, why?" The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand, where the winds of forgiveness can erase it, but when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone, so no wind can ever erase it."

LEARN TO WRITE YOUR HURTS IN THE SAND AND TO
CARVE YOUR BLESSINGS IN STONE.

A Parishioner