

The Toilet Paper

Odd fact and obscure thought to read...*as you have time*

Desperation for Forgiveness

Ernest Hemingway tells the story of the Spanish father who wanted to be reconciled with his son who ran away from home to the city of Madrid. The father misses the son and puts an advertisement in the local newspaper *El Liberal*. The advertisement read, "Paco, meet me at the Hotel Montana at noon on Tuesday. All is forgiven! Love, Papa." Paco is such a common name in Spain that when the father went to the Hotel Montana the next day at noon there were 800 young men named Paco waiting for their fathers! Hemingway's story reminds us how desperate all of us are for forgiveness.

Finding the Power to Forgive

Corrie Ten Boom, who was imprisoned by the Nazi regime tells of her experience of preaching at a church service on the subject of forgiveness. As she left the pulpit and came down to the center of the sanctuary, she recognized a man as the chief guard in the concentration camp where she and her sister had been incarcerated and where her sister had died.

The guard's face was beaming that night after the church service. "Oh, Fraulein," he said,



"how grateful I am for your powerful message. To think that Jesus washed my sins away."

Corrie Ten Boom found herself paralyzed as the guard thrust his hand out toward hers. She could not raise her hand from her side. She writes, "Even as the vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I breathed this silent prayer. 'Jesus, I cannot forgive him, please give me your forgiveness.'" And with that prayer she was able to lift her hand from her side and touched the hand of the man who had persecuted her. "From my shoulder," she writes, "along my arm and through my hand passed a current from me to him . . . and in that moment I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing depends, the world's healing depends upon God.

When our Lord tells us to love our enemies, he gives us, along with the command to do it, the love itself"

Forgiving Thoughts

Forgiveness may be the hardest work that you and I will ever do.
—Kathlyn James

She got even in a way that was almost cruel. She forgave them.
—anonymous

The only thing that's harder than forgiveness is the alternative. —Philip Yancey

Forgiveness is not one step, but a whole flight of steps.
—anonymous

New Office Supplies

The little church in the suburbs suddenly stopped buying from its regular office supply dealer. So, the dealer telephoned Deacon Brown to ask why.

"I'll tell you why," shouted Deacon Brown. "Our church ordered some pencils from you to be used in the pews for visitors to register."

"Well, interrupted the dealer, "didn't you receive them yet?"

"Oh, we received them all right," replied Deacon Brown.

"However, you sent us some golf pencils...each stamped with the words, 'Play Golf Next Sunday.'" ☐

A nursing home patient was asked, "How can you forgive everybody?" "I outlived them"