

**Pastoral Reflection**  
**July 24, 2022**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Ordinary Time**

In Luke's Gospel this week we have his version of the Our Father which is shorter than Matthew's. And both are different from the one our Church prays. I wanted to comment on the section where we pray: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us". True healing requires that we are willing to freely give up our right to our grievances. When there is a legitimate grievance it can become a "right", i.e. something one deserves. This means we are playing one-upmanship. We are indicating that there deserves to be a correction and/or punishment. A right to a grievance is a search for power, a search for superiority (I gotcha!). Jesus freely gave up his right to grievances even though he was unjustly condemned, tortured and crucified. He "forgave their trespasses". I don't see much of that going on in our society nor in our institutional church. Too often there is a dash to establish "moral high ground". There seems to be a desire to put people down. Check out your grievances! Can you freely let go? And let God!

Our Holy Father has called attention to another part of our liturgical Our Father. He has questioned where it says "lead us not into temptation". He has rightly indicated that God does not lead people into temptation, so why do we pray that he doesn't!? It is more correct to pray "lead us through temptation". I believe the French even officially changed the wording. Notice how we "don't notice"! This is just a thought for you to chew over.

Be safe and God bless,  
Fr. Jack (he/him)