

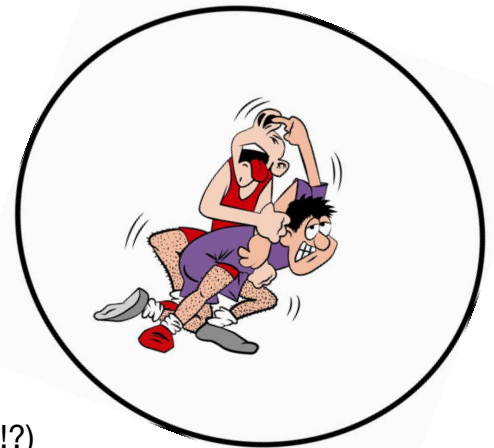


The HOLY FROG Blog

Honour Others, Lower Yourself and Fully Rely On God.

"I Don't Wish Anything Bad On You"

My brother and I often used to have play fights in which the aim was to get your opponent to surrender, give in and admit defeat. These wrestling bouts could go on for some time so occasionally, whilst in a head lock or being held down by my elder sibling, I would ask him to let me go for a few minutes to get a drink or go to the loo. Instead of holding onto me and squeezing out a submission he would show mercy and release his hold. He had the opportunity to 'finish the fight' but instead showed grace. (Actually, he only used to let me go if I agreed to come back to restart the fight in the exact hold he'd had me in, which, stupidly I did!?) How I wanted revenge, but it never came.



Most of us will have come across revenge either as a result of something we did to someone else or because of something we said or did to others! There are plenty of Blockbuster movies, soap opera storylines and news articles that feed off of the emotion of revenge. An incident happens, people are hurt and demands are made that the person



who caused the upset, pain or suffering be 'taught a lesson'. We are easily drawn into the plot of seeking revenge and seeing that the 'bad guy' gets what they deserve! BUT, what if, when you are wronged, hurt or suffer loss because of someone else, you didn't seek revenge? Others didn't get what they deserved? What if they got the total opposite of what they deserved? This is how Jesus turned things upside down when talking to his followers about this situation and set them thinking about an alternative way of life - Kingdom life. What would life be like if we followed this Beatitude?

#5 Blessed are the merciful for they shall be shown mercy.

MERCY is about giving up your RIGHT to have revenge and instead being willing to show forgiveness. Jesus reminds us of its importance in the Lord's prayer - "forgive others so that YOU can be forgiven" by God. If you show mercy, mercy will be shown to you by God. But it's not easy to show forgiveness is it? We want things to be fair, just, right. We often want payback! Jesus says no, let it go!!! **WHERE DO YOU DRAW THE LINE on forgiveness?** Someone bumps into you in the playground? No problem. Your coat is ripped by accident? OK. What if someone steals your lunch money; vandalises your bike; bullies a friend; injures a family member or even kills them? All of these incidents would rightly need some justice but what about forgiveness? **When would you say "I can never forgive that"?**



Incredible Act of Jesus-Like Mercy, as Young Man Forgives the Woman who Killed His Brother

A report from Fox News (4.10.19)

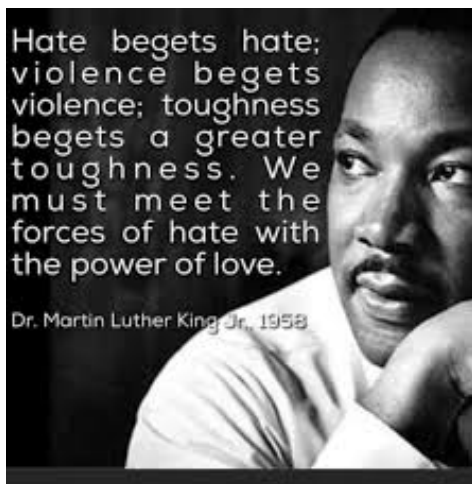
Amber Guyger was on trial for fatally shooting Botham Jean, in 2018 when she mistook him for an intruder, shooting him at close range. Guyger was sentenced to 10 years in prison. 18-year-old Brandt Jean, the younger brother of Botham, spoke to Guyger from the witness stand, expressing mercy and forgiveness.



“Each and every one of us may have done something we’re not supposed to do. If you truly are sorry, I know I forgive you. And I know if you go to God and ask Him, He will forgive you. I love you just like anyone else. I’m not gonna say ‘I hope you rot and die’, I personally want the best for you. I don’t even want you to go to jail. Giving your life to Christ would be the best thing, Botham would want you to do. I don’t wish anything bad on you.”

Then, with the judge’s permission, Brandt stepped down from the witness stand and embraced Guyger who showed visible emotion as sobs could be heard in the courtroom. Guyger’s defence attorney said, “I can’t talk about it without getting choked up. For all the love and grace that’s come out of this is amazing – people just showing grace.” The victim’s sister, also showed grace saying, “We have no room for hate. We have to forgive.”

What’s Your attitude to this beatitude?



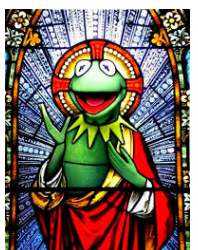
CHAPLAIN’S CHALLENGE:

- 1.Explain the plot of a film, TV soap or book that was based on revenge.
- 2.What does it mean to ‘get revenge’?
- 3.Where would you draw the line on forgiveness?
- 4.How do you think Brandt’s faith in God affected his actions in court?
- 5.Which is more difficult, being forgiven or forgiving?
6. How did Dr Martin Luther King live differently?

Read and Reflect: Be merciful, even as your Father

is merciful. “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. (Luke 6:36-37)

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Thank you for the grace and mercy you show to us as people. We often don’t even think about our actions and the consequences until it is too late. We are sorry for that. The forgiveness Brandt demonstrated, even though he had lost his brother, was incredible. Help us to fully rely on you that we might live this way too and bring a difference into our community. Amen.



Happy to chat about the blog, Christian faith, prayer requests and everything else
May we know real life lived out in faith, as individuals and as a community.

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