



(Affiliated To The Worldwide Traditional Anglican Communion)

Memorial Church Anglican - Whitefield

Consecrated 1886

Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore 560 066

SERMON FOR 22nd. SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (31.10.2010)

An unforgiving spirit, collective acts of aggression and revenge are all legal today. These acts flourish around us. These acts demand the humiliation of communities and individuals on economic, cultural and gender levels, to inflict psychological and physical pain.

These issues are not new, they are ancient happenings in human society. If we read 1 Sam. 8, we note the acts of collective aggression and revenge. The people of God demand from the prophet Samuel, a king, so that an army could be maintained. Samuel tells the people that an army would demand their complete support, and then they in turn would terrorise the society to which they belong, and do the same to the surrounding nations. If then, when you have this structure and it inflicts pain upon you cry out to God because of armed aggression, god will not answer your prayer. Yet the people clamour for such an order and they succeed in having a king and an army. This presence of armed forces creates a product - acts of aggression and terror. The same is well known to us in our modern world.

Jesus offers us a counter culture in the face of such happenings - The rabbis encouraged the people to forgive 3 times, but Jesus said we should forgive 70 times 7. That means for each fault done the forgiveness is 490 times!!!! This forgiveness is not something that we need to look at as being careless about our surroundings, but to offer forgiveness from the bottom of our hearts 490 times. This means that we are a community that through this culture of forgiveness, we season this earth with the kingdom of God's values and remove the prevailing culture of the unforgiving spirit, collective acts of aggression and revenge.

If we are to be the people who have the strength to forgive, the Collect for this day, offers us a guide line, and that is, we must be kept in continual godliness, both personal and as the household of faith - the Church - And if we must be kept in continual godliness we must learn to 'put on Jesus Christ and make no provision fore the flesh to gratify its desires.' Rom. 13:14.
