**Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full**

**TUESDAY MARCH 9 (Mt 18, 21-35)**

Our heavenly Father gives Himself as the eternal and universal model for forgiveness. We can say that he is the "mission" of himself. Up to the vocation of Moses it is he who goes in search of man. Later on it will arise the threefold ministry of prophecy, priesthood, kingship; ministries to exercise, and to live always in view of conversion for the forgiveness of sins and the return of man to the truth and justice that come from God. In the Book of Leviticus, the Lord manifests himself as the Holy God who wants every child of His people to be holy. What does God’s holiness consist of? In a universal love for all. The children of Israel will be holy if they love every man in obedience to the law of justice and mercy that have been or will be established by the Lord their God. Love is very pure obedience to the Word. Jesus comes and gives himself as an eternal and unsurpassable model to imitate. How does Jesus love? Making of himself a sacrifice and holocaust offered for the forgiveness of the sins of every man. Making himself body and blood and giving himself food to those who walk towards eternal life. Pouring from the cross the water that gives life and the blood that regenerates and configures to Christ Jesus. Having the disciple of Jesus his Master always in front of his eyes, not only must he always forgive, in addition, he must also offer his life to the Father, in Christ, so that many of his other brothers are converted, return to truth and justice, forgive their brothers, live full of grace and truth, always.

*Then Peter approaching asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down , did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, ' Pay back what you owe. ' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had him put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart. "*

In the parable of Jesus collide the beauty, the greatness, the infinite height of the mercy of God, who forgives a debt so great that it can never be satisfied, and the narrow-mindedness of a heart that after having received such a great gift of love from his Master. The wicked servant has one of his brothers thrown into prison, a fellow servant who has not immediately paid his debt, which with a few small sacrifices and some daily renunciation he could have satisfied in a few days. For the merciless servant, without mercy, the master withdraws his pardon. Now it is he who is thrown into prison until he has paid the last penny. But today who believes more in a single word of the Gospel of Lord Jesus? Who believes that one will end up in eternal prison if they do not heartily forgive their brother? Who is ready to forgive their brother seventy times seven, that is, always forever? If we still fail to give our life for the eternal life of our brothers in a very great gesture of love, at least we should love ourselves so much as to avoid ending up in eternal perdition. But today it is said that the Lord forgives without us forgiving, and everyone continues to hate his brothers.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make the Christian a model of forgiveness.