

Forgiveness Friday #12

A POSTSCRIPT

18 December 2021



One of the benefits of time is the chance to reflect. Another is the chance to see the sown crop grow and come to harvest. I've had time for a little of both in the four weeks since sharing the last instalment of what I hope will have been just the first episode in my journey to acquire the capacity to forgive.

Remember those weed crops I showed you in [Forgiveness Friday #3](#)? Well, the vegetable beds are now nurturing rapidly growing cucumber, zucchini and spring onion plantings plus a few self-sown tomato seedlings. Unfortunately, the photograph doesn't capture their beauty and vigour. As I was watering these miracles this morning, I saw in them a symbol of my own growth these last months.

Pondering the power of blessing and honouring, I realised that an important element of receiving back what we give out is preparedness to accept blessings and honour and carry them as tangible evidence of God's grace – a grace that we manifest and keep alive by continuing to bless and honour.

Recently I was discussing blessing with a dear friend who kindly consented to be on the Forgiveness Friday email list. As a result, I wanted to emphasise that it is YOU giving the blessing and honour. "I bless this driver with patience and consideration for other drivers." "I bless this person with a sense of just behaviour."

We do not bless by praying for God to bless. Yes, we hear that form of prayer often in church services. "May the Lord bless you and keep you." That "may" is just too equivocal! It's not a blessing, it's a petition. Just one more errand we expect God to do for us! The blessing and honour cannot boomerang back to us if we have not actually given them.

We also need to be careful that we are not asking God to do the blessing on our behalf because our willingness to forgive is luke-warm. If so, our intent to forgive will remain weak and under-developed.

Note that the psalmist does not pray that God will bless God: *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.* (Ps 103) Blessing and honouring are indeed soul work. They place on us a spiritual demand so strong that we should be consciously aware of it.

What better time than Christmas to gift friend and foe alike with your blessing and honouring? In that spirit, in this week leading up to the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus, I bless you with full awareness of the peace and joy God gifts the world at this time. Amen. Let it be so.

Love, Lyndal