

The Lord's Prayer

and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have
sinned against us. Matt 6:12

Forgiveness

- From God – everyone needs peace in their lives
- From each other
- From ourselves

What is Forgiveness?

Matt 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

What is Forgiveness?

27 "Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' 29 "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 30 "And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

What is Forgiveness?

32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Main points we can extract

1. Forgiveness Cancels a Debt
2. Forgiveness Makes a Three-fold Promise:
 - “I will not bring up this offense again or use it against you.”
 - “I will not gossip or malign you because of this offense.”
 - “I will not dwell on this offense.”
3. Failure to Forgive Turns Victims into Victimiziers

Main points we can extract

4. Failure to Forgive Has an Eternal Cost
5. Forgiveness is Both an Event and a Process
6. Forgiveness is Not Forgetting
7. Forgiveness is Not Peace at Any Cost

From God

- We all know it... its deep in our hearts
- We're fairly sure we don't deserve it
- We all try to earn it... doing good deeds

Mercy Triumphs over Justice

- Forgiveness is a key to blessing.
- Forgiveness and repentance open up our hearts and allow the river of God to flow freely in us.
- First, we need a revelation of how big God is. We must know that absolutely nothing is impossible for Him (Luke 1:37).
- Second, we need a revelation of how loving He is, how much He cares for us and how He is absolutely committed to loving us to life (Jeremiah 31:3).
- Finally, we need a revelation of how we can walk in that love and give it away. A heart that is free has time and resources for others.

From Each Other

Matt 5:22-24

22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

From Each Other

Mark 11:25-26

25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

From Each Other

- That gift is not just money
- Could be an act of service
- Could be a word from the Holy Spirit
- Issues with people on earth have issues for you in the Spiritual realm
- God will only receive your gift when you have made right
- God may not answer your prayer if you hold unforgiveness

Consequences

- Unforgiveness leaves us wounded
- Wounds sap our strength and energy
- Negativity blocks us from going out in love to serve others.
- Our thoughts and our words can hinder us from moving freely in the grace of Christ.

Observations

- how we forgive others is the true proof of how we view ourselves.
- how we forgive others is the true proof of how we view God.

From Ourselves

- Things that we do in life that we know messed up someone close
- Like being responsible for someone dying or going to jail.
- Like knowing you have violated your own standards
- What could be so bad that God can't forgive you?
- By being unable to forgive yourself you deny God's power to forgive and make yourself greater than God
- By being unable to forgive you think your sin is not that bad

Why Forgive? - Stories

- Yoshinori Yamaguchi
- Corrie Ten Boom

Forgiveness

- Forgive because unforgiveness is spiritual suicide.
- Forgive because Jesus first forgave you.
- Forgive because he promises to help you do so if you will let him.
- Forgive because, unless you forgive others, Jesus says that God will not forgive you.
- Our prayer should be: "God help us to give what has been given to us."