

Pray in this way – Part 4: Forgiveness

Matthew 6:12,14,15

Introduction:

- We live in a world of relationships
 1. They are i_____
 2. Disharmony in one relationship can adversely affect our harmony in other relationships and our harmony with G_____.
 3. Therefore f_____ is essential.
- What we have learned so far:
 1. Jesus never meant the Lord's Prayer to be repeated as a prayer in itself but that He meant it to be a topical g_____ in our private prayer time.
 2. The first topic had to do with p_____ God for who He is.
 3. The second topic had to do with praying about God's a_____ of saving people and using us in accomplishing what He wants on earth as we line up our desires with His.
 4. The third topic had to do with acknowledging God as the ultimate p_____ of our food.
- Today we will learn about prayer in relationship to f_____.

God's forgiveness c_____ our debt (12a)

- Forgive
 1. This is in the command mode but with a softened tone. It is a p_____ whereby we recognize the source of forgiveness.
 2. The Greek word translated as forgive literally means, *to l_____ behind.*
 3. Practically speaking the word means to leave the sin in the past and never bring it up.
- Debts (NLT - sins)
 1. The Greek word used in three ways:
 - a. F_____ debts – if you borrow money, you are in debt to the one you borrowed from.
 - b. M_____ debts – if you commit a crime, you are in debt to society and must pay a fine or do the time.
 - c. S_____ debts – when we sin against God, we owe Him, but it is a debt we cannot p_____.
 2. Only God can c_____ our sin debt.

●Biblical truths about forgiveness the disciples did not learn until after Jesus died on the cross.

1. Forgiveness by God takes place because of Jesus's w____
 - a. Prior to Jesus's death
 - 1) God p_____ over sins (Rom 3:25)
 - 2) God had people sacrifice a_____ to teach them that sin requires the payment of something innocent and perfect but Heb 10:4 states that it is impossible for this to take away s_____.
 - b. Jesus's blood sacrifice of Himself is the o_____ way that our sin debt can be p_____ (1 Pet 3:18).
2. God's initial forgiveness is a_____ at the moment we receive Christ as our God and Savior (Jn 3:16-18).
 - a. All our past sins are f_____
 - b. All our past sins are f_____ (Jer 31:34)
3. God's continued forgiveness occurs whenever we s_____ (He does not wait for us to repent or to plead for His forgiveness).
 - a. I Jn 2:1,2 – when we commit a sin, we have Jesus standing before God as our l_____ showing Himself as the payment for that sin.
 - b. I Jn 1:9
 - 1) The condition assumes that a person has the l_____ of confessing their sins (the word translated confess is in a tense that stresses this).
 - 2) The promise is that God is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins as they a_____ (the word translated forgive is in a tense that stresses this).
 - 3) No sin goes unforgiven because He cleanses us from a_____ unrighteousness.

●When Jesus said to pray in this way: *Forgive us our debts*

1. He did not mean that we have to ask b_____ we are forgiven
2. He meant that we are to:
 - a. A_____ that only God can cancel our sin debt.
 - b. A_____ God's forgiveness.

God's forgiveness c_____ us to forgive others (12b,14,15)

●As we also have forgiven our debtors

1. The word, *also*, reinforces the truth that God has already forgiven believers b_____ they ask. *We also have forgiven...*
2. The word translated *have forgiven* is better translated as *forgave*. But Jesus uses the p_____ tense when teaching this same truth in Lk 11:4 (*we also forgive all those indebted to us*).
3. Jesus is assuming that His disciples are f_____ers. A Christ follower should have no l_____ to forgiveness (Matt 18:21 – 70 x 7 was a cultural way of saying this)

●Verses 14, 15 can be understood in two ways (but only one was meant by Jesus)

1. First possible understanding is to view it as situational (i.e. instances of forgiving or not forgiving) - God w_____ for us to forgive others before He will forgive us.
2. Second possible understanding is to view it as a s_____ of a person's entire life.
 - a. If the caption reads – He f_____ others, then God will forgive that person.
 - b. If the caption reads – He did not forgive others, then God will not forgive that person.

●Although believers have the lifestyle of forgiveness, we may be slow to forgive in some cases.

1. The simplest thing to do is to forgive even though it is a hard thing to do.
 - a. It is hard because of our f_____.
 - b. It is simple because all it takes is a d_____.
2. The easiest thing to do is not forgive but this will bring all kinds of complications.
 - a. It is easy not to forgive because of our f_____
 - b. Refusing to forgive
 - 1) Puts you as a prisoner of the p_____ as you relive the offense.
 - 2) Adversely affects other relationships because it keeps you from living in the p_____.