

Forgive Us... As We Forgive ...Deliver Us from Evil

The Lord's Prayer--part 5

November 24, 2024

DAY 1: Forgive us...

Matthew 6:12 ...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

1. Debt is one metaphor for “sin.”

a. “Sin” means to rebel against God and His law, to disobey Him.

b. “Trespass” is another metaphor for sin, implying we have gone somewhere we were not allowed to go.

c. “Debt” describes the effects of our sins. “Debt” tells us there is something we legitimately owe.

2. Mortgage. We have taken out huge home loans. Every month we were on the hook to pay the bank for the home in which we were living. Technically, the house belonged more to the bank than to us -- for a long time. And if we decided that we wouldn't pay our mortgage, for whatever reason, it wouldn't take too many months before our home would have gone into foreclosure, and we would be out on the streets.

3. If you don't pay your car loans, they can just repossess your car. Re-possess, a nice word for take back what is legally theirs.

4. For the last few years, forgiving student debt has been in the news. Though the “government” may claim to pay off your student debt, the government has no money to pay off anyone's debt unless it takes money from taxpayers.

5. In other words, somebody still pays your student debt, it's just not you. Over the years I learned three things about student debt. (1) To my utter amazement, we didn't qualify for federal grants and student loans. We made too much. I was a preacher, married to a teacher. (2) Apparently, we did qualify to pay for student grants for other students through taxes. (3) We later learned that we apparently were qualified to pay for student loans that students took out in their 20's while we were expected to pay their loans while we were in our 70's.

3. Sin is a debt *we can never* repay. Sin is a mountain of debt, accumulated over a lifetime, of multiple daily choices, the debt ever growing higher, that is, unless Someone else pays the debt!

Mark 10:45 For the Son of Man came, not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

4. Jesus paid the ransom “money” for our debt. He did this with His blood, not ours!

DAY 2: How the gospel enables us to receive forgiveness and give forgiveness

*Matthew 6:12 ...and **forgive us our debts**, **as we also have forgiven our debtors**.*

Ephesians 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

1. Both the ability to receive forgiveness and give forgiveness is rooted in the gospel.
2. There is a picture of the gospel laid out in the book of Micah. The setting is Micah's awareness that everyone is a sinner, falling short of what we should be, and that includes him. Notice how he "processes" this failure around him, and his own failure.

Micah 7:7 But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.

3. What is his attitude toward this depressing scene?
4. Micah then speaks to an enemy who is rubbing Micah's face in the failure of the people.

Micah 7:8 Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise....

5. Micah does not see his failure as final!

Micah 7:8...Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.

6. Micah's darkness, his despondency, is real. But despite that reality, God Himself will lift Micah out of his darkness and despondency!

Micah 7:9 Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the Lord's wrath,

7. Micah knows that he deserved wrath....

...until he pleads my case and upholds my cause. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.

8. Micah sees that the Lord will **not** act as his prosecuting attorney but as his defense attorney! The result will be the sudden transfer from darkness to light, from guilty to pardoned!

Micah 7:10 Then my enemy will see it and will be covered with shame, she who said to me, "Where is the Lord your God?" My eyes will see her downfall; even now she will be trampled underfoot like mire in the streets.

9. The transfer is so sudden that those who shamed Micah will be shamed themselves!
10. This is a metaphor for the gospel! You are pardoned and can walk out of God's courtroom just as free as Micah!

DAY 3: As we forgive

1. Bitterness is a cruel taskmaster. When someone does us wrong, we say "I don't deserve this! How dare he treat me that way! After all I've done for him!!! Geesh."

Heb. 12:15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

2. What are the effects of bitterness?

3. **One** deed done by another to you can turn into a **thousand** replays in your head. (You may be one who adds to this mess by replaying these messages with others). Each time a replay occurs, two things happen to your heart. It *splits* (gets smaller) and it *hardens* (closes down).

Matt. 6:12 ... "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."

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4. How does the correlation of asking God to forgive us our sins **as** we forgive others' sins against us strike you?

5. What is it that makes forgiving some people so difficult?

___ The proud belief that I **deserve** better

___ The belief that human **validation** (love, care, importance, etc.) is what I really need.

___ The belief that I **need** a certain kind of response from people.

6. As long as I cling to those beliefs, I will find it virtually impossible to forgive some people.

7. Instead, only God is what and who I **need** for my validation (love, care, importance, etc.).

8. There is nothing wrong with **WANTING** human validation. But, when my heart dictates that I **NEED** human validation,

9. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4: Lead us not into temptation...

Matt. 6:13 And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

1. Let's bore in on the nature of temptation:

James 1:13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

James 1:14 ... but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

2. What did you notice about temptation in James 1:13-15?

1 Cor. 10:13 No temptation has overtaken that is not common to man. God is faithful and will not let you be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape that you may be able to endure it.

3. Make three observations about temptation and dealing with temptation.

4. What was your one biggest takeaway from 1 Cor. 10:13?

Psalms 119:9, 11 How can a young man keep himself pure? By guarding it according to Your word. I have laid up Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.

5. What things helped the Psalmist in dealing with temptation?

6. What is your takeaway from today's devotional?

DAY 5: Deliver us from evil

*Matt. 6:13 And lead us not into temptation **but deliver us from the evil one.***

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1. What strikes you about Satan in these verses?

James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

2. Make a list of action steps in dealing with temptation:

3. Jesus dealing with temptation: a case study.

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted ^v by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

What strikes you from temptation #1?

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” ⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

What strikes you from temptation #2?

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

What strikes you from temptation #3?

What’s your biggest takeaway from today’s devotional?