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As We Forgive Our Debtors

MATTHEW 6:5-15

5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

10 Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread,

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

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil.

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

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Overview Of The Prayer

1. He starts with exalting God in his proper place
“Hallowed be your name”
2. He submits to Gods will. “Your will be done”
3. He then asks God to provide for physical needs
“give us this day our daily bread”
4. He moves on to request God’s forgiveness
“forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors”
5. He then finishes the prayer with a petition for God to protect us from evil and avoid temptation.

“forgive us our debts
as we also have forgiven our debtors”

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Verses 14&15

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The Parable of The Unforgiving Servant Matthew 18

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

The Parable of The Unforgiving Servant Matthew 18

³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the tormentors, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

What Is Forgiveness?

When we strive against all thoughts of revenge; when we will not do our enemies mischief, but wish well to them, grieve at their calamities, pray for them, seek reconciliation with them, and show ourselves ready on all occasions to relieve them.

(Thomas Watson, *Body of Divinity*, p. 581)

What Is Forgiveness?

- Resist thoughts of revenge:
 - Romans 12:19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”
- Don't seek to do them mischief:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

What Is Forgiveness?

- Wish well to them:
 - Luke 6:28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.
- Grieve at their calamities:
 - Proverbs 24:17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles

What Is Forgiveness?

- Pray for them:
 - Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
- Seek reconciliation with them:
 - Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
- Be always willing to come to their relief:
 - Luke 6:27 But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you

What Is Forgiveness?

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What Forgiveness Is Not

1. Not the absence of anger at sin

2. Not the absence of serious consequences for sin

Forgiveness Is Not the Absence of Serious Consequences for Sin

1. Hebrews

8:12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”

12:6, 10 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”..... [Our Earthly Fathers] disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

Forgiveness Is Not the Absence of Serious Consequences for Sin

2. David

² *Sameul* 12:9 Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

^{vrs 13} David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die."

Forgiveness Is Not the Absence of Serious Consequences for Sin

3. Children of Isreal

Numbers 14:20 Then the LORD said, “I have pardoned, according to your word. ²¹ But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, ²² none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, ²³ shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.

Forgiveness Is Not the Absence of Serious Consequences for Sin

Psalms 99:8 O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

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3. Forgiveness does not mean peace at all cost

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4. Forgiveness of an unrepentant person?

Forgiveness of an Unrepentant Person

Luke 17:3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ⁴ and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

Luke 6:27 "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

We are not bound to trust an enemy; but we are bound to forgive him. (Thomas Watson *Body of Divinity*, p. 581)

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