

Series: Sermon on the Mount  
Title: Forgiveness  
Text: Matthew 6: 12, 14, 15  
Date: October 18, 2009  
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**Matthew 6: 12: And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...14: For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

What is it to be a debtor?

A debtor is unable to make a payment that is owed.

What is it to trespass?

When you see a sign that says, “No trespassing”, the moment you step beyond that sign you have trespassed against the owner of that property.

Every person born of Adam is a trespasser against God and a debtor to God.

God told Adam not to eat of one tree in the garden. That was God’s “No Trespassing Sign.” When Adam took of that fruit he trespassed against God.

Adam became a debtor to God. He owed God payment for sin—death. He owed God righteous obedience. He owed God holiness of character. None of which Adam could pay and be restored to God. Adam needed a Redeemer to pay his debts and deliver him from God his Creditor.

Every person born of Adam are born dead in trespasses and in sins because we trespassed against God in Adam, sinned against God in Adam, died in Adam and came forth sons of Adam, spiritual dead trespassers and sinners against God.

We need a Redeemer to pay our debts and make it so that God will no longer remember our trespasses against him.

But you who have been brought to believe on Christ Jesus, are forgiven. Those who have been forgiven much, are merciful.

**I. Our Lord is not saying that our forgiveness of others earns us forgiveness with God.**

The free grace of God is the cause of God’s forgiveness toward those he has everlastingly loved.

He forgave the debts of his elect before they were ever incurred, in eternity, accepting us in Christ our Surety.

Ephesians 1: 3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

He forgave the debts of all whom Christ represented when Christ, by his blood, washed them away at Calvary.

Hebrews 9: 12: Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

He brings each of his redeemed into the realization of our forgiveness through the work of the Holy Spirit through the gift of faith, speaking his promise into our hearts,

Hebrews 10: 17: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

As we confess our sins to him daily at his throne of grace, he is faithful and just to forgive us our debts continually.

## **II. A New Heart Communes With God (vv14, 15)**

**If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

Our Lord teaches us that communion with God is enjoyed by those who have been given a new nature. A sinner forgiven by the grace of God is merciful in the heart made new by God.

Where the Spirit of God is at work there will be a spirit of forgiveness, of forbearance, and brotherly love. Our Lord has been teaching us that God's grace is free, without respect of persons. He said,

Matthew 5: 44: But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45: That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

James 2: 9: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors...

We, as believers know, that we trespass against God daily, yet he forgives us for Christ's sake. His mercy toward us constrains us to forgive those who trespass against us. So as James says:

James 2: 12: So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. 13: For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

Let's look at the example the Lord gave to Peter:

Matthew 18:21: Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22: Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. 23: Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24: And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25: But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26: The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27: Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28: But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29: And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30: And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31: So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32: Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34: And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the

tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35: So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Not that our Father will ever cast away one for whom Christ died, but he will chasten us and correct us.

Be sure to remember that the Lord Jesus is teaching us about the heart. Did you catch that phrase? From your hearts?

Anger is in the heart. Grace works in the heart. The Lord is teaching us about communion with God from the hidden man of the heart—the new creation. Forgiveness is, not in our words only, but is FROM THE HIDDEN MAN OF THE HEART, because the work of grace is in the heart.

Colossians 3: 12: Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13: Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. 14: And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15: And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.