

The Lord's Prayer – Part 6

Forgive us our Debts

Sermon 20 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 6:12

1. Exposition

And – connects this request with the previous and one following.

DAILY Bread

DAILY forgiveness

DAILY being kept from temptation.

Forgive – to let go, remit, pardon, remove guilt from wrong-doing.

Debts -- what is owed -- parallel passage in Luke says, “Trespases”.

As we forgive our debtors – a powerful and even fearful prayer

That little word **AS** has a big meaning here.

II. The Debt We Owe

Larger Westminster Catechism **Q. 194. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?**

A. In the fifth petition, (which is, *Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,*) acknowledging, that we and all others are guilty both of original and actual sin, and thereby become debtors to the justice of God; and that neither we, nor any other creature, can make the least satisfaction for that debt: pray for ourselves and others, that God of his free grace would, through the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, apprehended and applied by faith, acquit us both from the guilt and punishment of sin, accept us in his Beloved; continue his favor and grace to us, pardon our daily failings, and fill us with peace and joy, in giving us daily more and more assurance of forgiveness; which we are the rather emboldened to ask, and encouraged to expect, when we have this testimony in ourselves, that we from the heart forgive others their offenses.

III. Forgive us our Debts AS we Forgive our Debtors.

We would be the worst of hypocrites to expect God to expect our massive debt against Him – and then refuse to forgive that small debt someone might owe us.

Matthew 18:23-35

There is a natural, sinful human tendency to minimize our own sins and to maximize the sins of others.

IV. What this Prayer Does Not Mean

It does not mean we should forgive, unconditionally, when the sinner does not ask for forgiveness.

It does not mean that all consequences are removed for those who sin against us.

It does not mean that the church cannot exercise proper discipline against her members who fall into gross sin.

V. Prayers of Contrition

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father;
We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against thy holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;
And we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
Spare thou them, O God, who confess their faults.
Restore thou them that are penitent;
According to thy promises declared in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake;
That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The great prayer of repentance in Psalm 51

Daniel's prayer of repentance for himself and his people – Daniel 9

AW Pink sums all this up in these 4 ways.

What do we ask for in this petition?

1. We ask that God will not lay to our charge, the sins we daily commit. (Ps. 143:2)
2. We plead that God will accept the satisfaction of Christ for our sins and look upon us as righteous in Him.
3. We beseech God for His continued pardon.
We don't stop asking for our daily bread, simply because we have a cupboard that is well stocked. We don't stop asking for forgiveness from God either.
4. Fourth, we plead to know the joy of sins forgiven.
We desire that our sins be blotted out of our conscience and from God's book of remembrance.