

Theme: Christians pray to God for forgiveness of our many sins, knowing that asking for forgiveness requires we extend to others ourself.

I. Make My Life A Prayer To You

- A. As a young Christian bought album “No Compromise”
- B. Full of challenging songs for a young Christian!
- C. Make my life a prayer - lyrics
- D. Fits what we have seen - prayer is life, not just words
- E. Nowhere more apparent than in 5th petition - forgive us
- F. What does it mean to forgive us our debts?
- G. What does it mean to forgive our debtors?

II. Forgive Us Our Debts

- A. Forgive us our debts - the meaning of ‘debt’ is sin
And forgive us our **debts**, as we forgive our debtors.
Matthew 6:12 (KJV)
 - 1. We are asking God to forgive - not likely money!
 - 2. The parallel in Luke - ‘sins’
And forgive us our **sins**; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. Luke 11:4 (KJV)
 - 3. Likely background is Aramaic word ܚܒܝܢ, ḥōbā’,
 - a. Used for both monetary debt and sin
 - b. Luke made this explicit by translating sin - but left ‘indebted’ in 2nd part of the verse
 - 4. Matthew 18:21-35 - parable of king forgiving debt; related to Peter’s question about how many times to forgive

- 5. Matthew 6:14-15 - clearly transgressions are in view
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. Matt 6:14–15 (KJV)
- 6. This means our sin is a debt to God - we owe Him obedience and have denied it

- B. Forgive us our debts - we are to confess and ask forgiveness

And **forgive** us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Matthew 6:12 (KJV)

- 1. Clear admission of our own guilt - forgiveness begins with repentance and confession
- 2. Freedom from sin not found in defining sin down, but in open recognition and confession
- 3. And in the Gospel we have confidence that God forgives us in Christ - good news!

- C. Forgive us our debts - focus on community again!

And forgive **us our** debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Matthew 6:12 (KJV)

- 1. Our function of ruling is communal - not individual
- 2. We can not fulfill our function alone

III. A Commitment To Forgive Others

- A. Forgive us... **as we forgive** our debtors

And forgive us our debts, **as we forgive** our debtors.
Matthew 6:12 (KJV)

- 1. Jesus tells us to link our request with our own action
 - a. We is emphatic - a real stress on how we will act

- b. This continues the call to non-hypocritical prayer
- c. This principle is brought out many place in the NT

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. Matthew 6:14–15

Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.” Matthew 18:32–35

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. Mark 11:25

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

2. **As we forgive/have forgiven** our debtors

And forgive us our debts, **as we forgive** our debtors. Matthew 6:12 (KJV)

Forgive us our debts, **as we also have forgiven** our debtors. Matthew 6:12 (NIV)

- a. Textual differences here - some have aorist - past/ accomplished fact; some have present - continual
- b. Most scholars today think aorist (past) is correct here - stresses we have already forgiven others
- c. Luke has present tense - stresses continual need
- d. Aramaic original may well have had perfect tense - past action with ongoing results - both are true!

e. Both are true - we forgive quickly and continually

B. Forgive us... as we **forgive our debtors**

And forgive us our debts, as we **forgive our debtors**. Matthew 6:12 (KJV)

1. Forgive not just action - but the person
2. We are called to be a community of forgiveness and grace, always looking to restore

C. A tough prayer - forgive us like in same degree and manner we forgive others

IV. Applying the Word

A. Confess our own enormous sin - & receive forgiveness!

1. We have ALL sinned and fallen short of God’s glory
2. My own sin is cosmic rebellion against my Creator
3. "There is enough sin in my best prayer to send the whole world to Hell." ~ John Bunyan
4. Relief comes not from hiding sin but confessing
5. Salvation comes not from reducing sin but recognizing it
6. Cry out to God for forgiveness for your own sin
7. Receive the free forgiveness of God today!

B. Forgiving others for wrongs done to us - as Christ has forgiven us

1. Let us not be hypocrites in prayer!
2. Receiving forgiveness requires extending forgiveness

3. This is for our own good!
 - a. Unforgiveness & bitterness primarily harms me
 1. It keeps me bound up in hurt, anger, etc.
 2. It prevents me from receiving God's free forgiveness myself
 - b. Unforgiveness secondarily harms whole church community
4. Unforgiveness minimizes my sin and maximizes the sin of others

"Once our eyes have been opened to see the enormity of our offense against God, the injuries which others have done to us appear by comparison extremely trifling. If, on the other hand, we have an exaggerated view of the offenses of others, it proves that we have minimized our own" (Stott, Message of the Sermon on the Mount, 149–50)
5. Extend forgiveness today!

C. Closing prayer - receiving and extending forgiveness

Praying For Our Forgiveness

Matthew 6:13 KJV
January 26, 2014
Communion
Psalm 79:9

Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake. Psalms 79:9

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.** Matthew 6:9–13

Make my life a prayer to You
I wanna do what You want me to
No empty words and no white lies
No token prayers no compromise
- Keith and Melody Green