

The Work of Forgiveness

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13

Series: Praying with Jesus

‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come your will be done as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors.’

Two Realities of Forgiveness we participate in:

1. That we need to _____ .
 - We _____ for forgiveness for our debts because we never _____ being _____ .
 - Jesus wants us to relate to God not just as a _____ but as a _____ .
 - The prayer “Forgive us our debts” is the cry not of a frightened _____ but of a loving _____ desiring full _____ with their father.

2. That we need to _____ .
 - There is a close connection between us _____ forgiveness from God and us _____ forgiveness to others.
 - God places a radical priority upon _____ of, and _____ with, one another.
 - Our relationships with one another have a _____ correlation with our _____ and _____ with God.
 - If God has forgiven us, we have no business _____ to forgive others.

Start talking.

- When have you jumped to a conclusion about someone that turned out to be incorrect?

Start thinking.

- How have you heard sin talked about in church? How have you heard holiness discussed?
- How is confession viewed and talked about by Christians these days?

Start sharing.

- In what ways does the world define and frame forgiveness? How does society instruct us to deal with grievances and trespasses from others?
- What are your initial reactions to Matthew 5:23–24 after hearing Pastor Troy's explanation about how much travel it could entail (eighty miles one way) to leave a gift at the altar and go reconcile with someone?
- What is an example of a beautiful exhibition of Christian forgiveness that you have witnessed?
- How do we pray for forgiveness of our trespasses while also maintaining a high standard of holy living?
- Which is easier to do: forgive others for their trespasses or admit we have trespassed against God and others? Why?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, who does not treat me as my sins deserve, forgive me for both the wrong things I've done and the wrongs I've caused with what I've left undone. Your kindness leads me to repentance, and humbly ask for you to pour out your steadfast love into my heart, soul, mind, and strength that I might live a life that reflects your grace.

Start Doing:

- Prayerfully consider joining or forming an accountability group. Such a group can be instrumental in providing encouragement and accountability in reading Scripture, living lives of Christlike compassion, and confessing sins.