

THE LORD'S PRAYER - PART V The Petition of Prayer

Text: Matthew 6:12

Key Word: Prayer

Key Thought: This Prayer Leads Us into a Way to Forgive Those Who Have Sinned Against Us

Of all the parts of the Lord's Prayer this is the most frightening one of all. When a person fully understands the implication of this prayer, they may need to take some cautionary steps to forgive someone.

"He who has not received the spirit of forgiveness has not truly received the gift of pardon"

John S. Excell
"The Biblical Illustrator"
"Matthew" p. 97

We will never enjoy God's pardon of sin until we share it with those who have sinned against us. Those who refuse to forgive will continue to walk in sin.

Before going too far in this sermon, I'd like to address the Biblical word "**SIN.**" What does this word really mean? The fact is that there are a number of words that are used to describe the English word "*sin*" in the Bible. **Lets take a closer look at the variety of meanings of this word.**

1. Hamartia - This word means simply "*to miss the mark.*" The Greeks used the word to describe an archer who failed to strike his target with an arrow.

- a. Judah missed the mark by betraying Jesus - *Matthew 27:4*
- b. The prodigal son missed the mark of contentment - *Luke 15:18,21*
- c. The adulterous woman missed aiming for the mark of purity - *John 8:11*
- d. The angels missed the mark and were cast from heaven through pride - *II Peter 2:4*
- e. Israel missed the mark of following God's Law by their unbelief - *Hebrew 3:17*
- f. A sinner misses the mark by refusing salvation - *Hebrews 10:26*

2. "Parabasis" - This word means "*stepping across.*" It describes a person who steps across the line between right and wrong.

- a. The Pharisees stepped over the line in their traditions - *Matthew 15:2,3*
- b. Judas stepped over the line and lost his apostleship and life - *Acts 1:25*

3. "**Paraptoma**" - This word means "*slipping across.*" This is the kind of thing that happens to us when we walk on an icy surface. **Therefore, it is not a deliberate slip.** Even the best of us can slip into sin when we are taken off our guard for a moment.

4. "**Anomia**" - This word simply means "*lawlessness.*" The sin describes a person who knowingly breaks the law and is seldom concerned about it.

5. "**Opheilema**" - This word means "*debt.*" This speaks of a person who fails to pay for a debt that is due.

We should be much more willing to forgive others for what they've done wrong to us as we recognize that we also need to receive forgiveness on a daily basis.

The literal meaning of this scripture verse is,

"Forgive us our sins *in proportion* as we forgive those who have sinned against us."

William Barclay
"The Gospel of Matthew"
p. 222

There are a number of Biblical illustrations of this prayer in action. An excellent example is found in the life of Joseph. His brothers felt they needed to make up a story after their father had died and they had finished the traditional Egyptian 40 days of embalming and 70 days of mourning. To ensure they were forgiven for their past wrongs to Joseph, they told Joseph that their father had said ,

*"I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.'
Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the
God of your father."*

Genesis 50:17

Joseph wept at their words because he knew in his heart he had already forgiven them. They should have been able to see it, but their fear held them bound to their past. They couldn't forgive themselves. Therefore, they found it difficult to receive forgiveness from Joseph.

In the New Testament, we find the story of Stephen who was brought before the Sanhedrin. They found him guilty of blasphemy against Moses and God (Acts 6:11). This bloodthirsty mob of religious fanatics held their kangaroo court and found this man of God guilty of a sin he had never committed. He could have writhed in unforgiveness but he chose to follow the pattern of his Saviour and Lord.

In the moments preceding his agonizing death, he set his heart right with his merciless avengers when he cried out for all to hear,

"Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Acts 7:60

If we want to pray "Give us ... we need to also add "and forgive us and help us forgive others." This does not mean that God can never forgive us when we don't forgive others, but it is a prayer that strongly encourages to forgive others before expecting God to forgive us.

*** The bombing in Oklahoma City stills sends chills down the spine of any decent living person. Both Timothy McVay and Terry Nichols were held as key suspects in the tragic act of violence. One family called the Willbornes made it their duty to seek out who the culprits were. They lost two sons who were at the Day Care centre. They believed that these baby killers had committed the unpardonable sin. ***

The Biblical meaning of the words used for "forgive" are very important for us to understand.

1. "nasa (Hebrew)" - This word simply means "to lift." It also means to "bear, carry, and support." This is the word used by Joseph's brothers in the passage of Genesis 50:17. A person who is forgiven often speaks of a weight being lifted from them. They can then walk with their head held high again. Life can be enjoyed once again. Sin can be forgiven and even forgotten (as time goes on) because it is lifted up and carried away.

"Look upon my affliction and my distress and take away (forgive) all my sins."

Psalm 25:16

2. "aphiemi (Greek)" - This word means "to send forth."

3. "apolo (Greek)" - This word means "to free fully; relieve, release, dismiss, let go, loose, set at liberty." It is important to see how this word is used in Scripture.

*"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. **Forgive, and you will be forgiven.***

38. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:37,38

These verses have everything to do with forgiveness and very little to do with your ability and willingness to give finances to the work of God. **The measure that we will receive forgiveness will largely depend upon the measure that we give to others.**

Jesus went on to warn about judging each other with a different measure than we judge ourselves. He used the symbols of taking a plank out of our eye before taking the speck of sawdust out of our brother's eye (Luke 6:41-42). He then taught that a tree is known by the fruit it bears (Luke 6:43-45). He finished this thought by encouraging His disciples (Luke 6:17,20) to build their house (life) upon a solid foundation so it will be able to withstand the pressures of life (Luke 6:48).

A person who is able to forgive will find their own life benefits as well as the person they have forgiven. A person forgiven will be lifted up, sent forth and given a complete liberty.

*** Karl Menninger, the famous psychiatrist, said that if he could convince the patients in his psychiatric hospitals that their sins are forgiven, 75 percent of them could walk out the next day.

Michael Green
"Illustrations for Biblical Preaching"
#524, p. 155

*** A man named John Oglethorpe, in talking to John Wesley, once made the comment, *"I never forgive."* Mr. Wesley wisely replied, *"Then, Sir, I hope you never sin."*

Michael Green
"Illustrations for Biblical Preaching"
#516, p. 152

There are two marks of a Christian: **giving** and **forgiving**. We can only give and forgive because our Lord gave and forgave us of our sins.

"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them quite so much."

"When a friend makes a mistake, don't rub it in. Rub it out."

E.C. McKenzie
"14,000 Quips and Quotes"
p. 187,188

We will all do something in life that needs to be forgiven.

Wife to Husband: *"I scratched the front fender a little, dear. If you want to look at it, it's in the trunk."*

****** A man was waiting at an intersection for a circus to pass by. He saw a sign on one of the wagons that read: **"Barney's Circus with Fifty Elephants."**

He counted the elephants as they crossed the intersection. When he got to fifty, he put his car in gear and started to cross the intersection because he was late for an appointment. Unfortunately, he had miscounted and his car killed the last elephant.

A week later he got a notice from the circus that he'd have to pay \$200,000.00. He called the circus manager and inquired, *"What's the deal? I only hit one lousy elephant! Why do you want \$200,000.00?"*

The manager responded, *"It's true, you only hit one elephant but you pulled the tails out of forty-nine others!"*

Bob Phillips
"The World's Greatest Collection of Clean Jokes"
pp. 138,139

We all need to be forgiven for things we never intended to do. There is a difference between premeditating an act and being careless. We may even need to forgive someone who planned to bring harm to us or someone we loved.

To illustrate this point I would like you to consider the following scenario. I first of all need you to consider someone to represent the part of the guilty one who committed an act of injustice. The second person would play the part of the victim.

In this example, I would have the victim begin to **tie up** the one who was guilty of the crime along with others who are close by. Also, **place some weights** upon the guilty one. Then place a **few notable signs** to express the way this victim may feel toward the guilty one. Perhaps even let the **victim kick this person** a time or two while they are either standing defiantly or down and out.

We are not finished yet. **Now lets think how unfair it would appear to tie up the victim and place an even heavier weight upon that person who has already suffered enough.**

Now for the turning point. I want the last person to come along and help **the victim understand the total perspective of this problem**. After a short time of consideration, I would have **the victim begin to let the weights drop off themselves and become untied**. **Then have the victim untie everyone** that has been infected with bitterness and contempt due to what has been passed on. **The final and most difficult part will be for the victim and those influenced to remove the weight and untie the guilty one.**

Embrace each other in a spirit of humility is my final recommendation. What we have just imagined depicts the Biblical meanings of our English word *“forgiveness”* that we need to emphasise in our churches. We need not only to **forgive others** but also to **free ourselves** from the burden of an unforgiving spirit.

"For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38

Hopefully the scriptures have become alive in this very important aspect of our lives.

"Forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors."

Matthew 6:12

In closing I'd like for you to remember a famous quote,

"To ere is human, to forgive is divine."

C:/My Documents/WPWin(X7)/Sermons.2018/Prayer-Lord's/matt 6_12.wpd

Date: Apr 15/18

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Create in Me a Clean Heart (And Renew a Right Spirit) - G; Father Make us One - G

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There are a number of Biblical illustrations of this prayer in action such as with Joseph and his deceitful brothers (*Genesis 50:17*). In the New Testament, we find the story of Stephen who was brought before the Sanhedrin. They found him guilty of blasphemy against Moses and God (*Acts 6:11*; cf. *Acts 7:60*).

II. THE VARIETY OF MEANINGS OF THE WORD "FORGIVE."

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