

Meeting with God - "as we also have forgiven our debtors"

March 1, 2018

Matthew 6:9-13 NASB

9 "Pray, then, in this way...

Follow this pattern whenever you go to God in prayer. One of the ways the Holy Spirit helps us to pray is through the model Jesus gave us and through Scriptures such as the Psalms.

Romans 8:26 NASB

26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;

9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven...

Pray with the confidence that God loves you as your Father. You can go to Him about anything, pouring your heart out to Him, withholding nothing from Him, and He will always welcome you, always love you, always care for you.

9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'

Worship puts God, in our heart and focus, in His rightful place and worship places us, along with our desires, cares and problems, in our rightful place.

10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

Prayer is not to have our will accomplished. Prayer is surrendering absolutely and unconditionally to God accomplishing His will in us, even as it is in heaven.

11 'Give us this day our daily bread.'

Prayer exercises our faith in God alone to be our Provider and our Provision, in every area of life, both spiritual and temporal.

Prayer is spiritual warfare against some of our soul's greatest enemies: anxiety, worry and fear.

12 'and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.'

Whenever we come into God's presence through prayer, His holiness and purity will convict our hearts of our sinfulness, prompting godly sorrow and repentance.

13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'

Matthew 6:12 NASB

12 **And forgive us our debts, AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN** (*aphiēmi* - to send away, to let go, disregard, forgive, keep no longer) **OUR DEBTORS.**

- The Biblical meaning of forgiveness is to send away, no longer keep a record or remit someone's sin.
- The practical application is that you no longer perceive, remember or act towards that person in light of their sin. Their sin has been sent away, no longer in view, no longer held to their account or reputation.
- The debtor (offender) has a significant role in the process of forgiveness. When true godly sorrow and repentance is clearly evident, then the forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration can be experienced fully and quickly.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 ESV

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

- When the apology is half-hearted and self-centered, riddled with excuses, justifications and blame-shifting, or there is little or no manifest change in attitude or behavior, reconciliation and restoration can be severely compromised, even though the offended party has a heart to forgive.

Matthew 6:14-15 ESV

14 For **if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,**

15 **but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

James 2:13 ESV

13 For **judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy.** Mercy triumphs over judgment.

"No prayers can be heard which do not come from a forgiving heart." —J.C. Ryle

"I firmly believe a great many prayers are not answered because we are not willing to forgive someone."
—D.L. Moody

Luke 6:35-38 ESV

35 But **love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.**

- Love is unconditional "...expecting nothing in concern..." "...kind to the ungrateful and the evil..."
- To forgive is to demonstrate God's nature "...you will be sons of the Most High..."
- "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

—C.S. Lewis

Luke 6:35-38 ESV

36 **Be merciful** (*oiktirmōn* - tender mercy, compassion), **even as your Father is merciful** (*oiktirmōn* - tender mercy, compassion).

- *To be merciful is to be moved with compassion - the ability to feel the pain and suffering of another.*
- *The ability to feel someone else's pain diminishes with selfishness.*

Luke 6:35-38 ESV

37 **Judge** (*krinō* - to pronounce an opinion, call into question, separate, put asunder) **not, and you will not be judged; condemn** (*katadikazō* - pronounce guilty, give judgment against, condemn) **not, and you will not be condemned; forgive** (*apolyō* - to set free, dismiss, send away, release a debtor), **and you will be forgiven;**

- *"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap." Galatians 6:7*
- *There must be discernment without a self-righteous and critical spirit.*

Philippians 1:9-10 ESV

*9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,
10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,*

2 Timothy 2:20-22 ESV

20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.

21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Luke 6:35-38 ESV

38 **give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.**

- *God rewards mercy and forgiveness. It's not "karma" nor "paying it forward". It is God Who rewards.*

Matthew 18:21-35 ESV

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, **how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"**

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, **but seventy-seven times.**

- *Peter thought forgiving seven times was a large, generous number.*
- *Peter was blind to his own self and sinfulness.*
- *When you think you have little to be forgiven, you have little forgiveness for others. "Why can't they be as good as I am?"*
- *When you know how much you need to be forgiven, you have much forgiveness for others. "I dare not withhold from others what I need so much of myself!"*

Matthew 18:21-35 ESV

23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

27 And out of pity (*splagchnizomai* - moved with compassion, to feel sympathy, to pity) for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

- *At first, all the master could see was the debt owed to him. But he was moved with pity when he saw the servant's desperation and family.*

28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'

29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'

30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

33 And should not you have had mercy (*eleeō* - have compassion, help the afflicted, have pity) on your fellow servant, as I had mercy (*eleeō* - have compassion, help the afflicted, have pity) on you?'

34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.

35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Acts 13:2 ESV

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 15:37-39 ESV

37 Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark.

38 But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.

39 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.