

Understanding the Lord's Prayer

Session 6: *“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”*

Scripture Texts and Citations

Everybody thinks forgiveness is a good idea; until it's time to forgive someone

- *C.S. Lewis*

To the fulfilling of that promise (our forgiveness by God), Christ clearly attached a hard-and-fast condition, binding us by contractual agreement: we are to ask that our debts be forgiven us to the extent we forgive our debtors – aware that we cannot obtain the pardon we seek for our offenses unless we have granted the same pardon to those who offend against us.

- *St. Cyprian's commentary on The Lord's Prayer (p. 69)*

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

- *Matthew 6:14-15*

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

- *Colossians 3:13*

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

- *Luke 24: 45-48*

Jesus "is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility"

- *Ephesians 2:14*

"...God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."

- *2 Corinthians 5:19*

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and

all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' - *Matthew 18: 21-33a*

¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. ²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." ²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" - *Luke 5:18-21*

³ So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him." ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶ He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. - *Luke 17:3-6*

(Lord's Prayer from, The Message)

*'Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are.
Set the world right; Do what's best—as above, so below.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.
You're in charge! You can do anything you want!
You're ablaze in beauty!
Yes. Yes. Yes.'*

