



“Forgiveness”

June 23, 2024 – Matthew 6:12

“...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors..”

“...we are to be more careful for our souls than for our bodies, more careful for grace than for daily bread; and more desirous to have our souls saved than our bodies fed.” Thomas Watson

1. Our most urgent request is forgiveness from God.

...and forgive us our debts,

- **What is forgiveness?** Luke 11:4
- **How does God forgive?** Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:34
- **On what basis?** Ephesians 1:7; Matthew 26:28; 2 Corinthians 5:21

2. Our most urgent response is to forgive others as we have been forgiven. *...as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*Matthew 6:14–15

a) Forgiveness is costly!

Five Dark "Benefits" of Unforgiveness (Paul Tripp)

- Debt is power.
- Debt is identity.
- Debt is entitlement.
- Debt is weaponry.
- Debt puts us in God’s position.

b) Unforgiveness is much more costly.

Matthew 18:21–35; Ephesians 4:26-27a; 4:30–5:2

“To be forgiven is such sweetness that honey is tasteless in comparison with it. But yet there is one thing sweeter still, and that is to forgive. As it is more blessed to give than to receive, so to forgive rises a stage higher in experience than to be forgiven.” (Charles Spurgeon)

c) Forgiveness not based on merit but on capacity.

Colossians 3:12–17

What is forgiveness? “When we strive against all thoughts of revenge; when we will not do our enemies mischief, but wish well to them, grieve at their calamities, pray for them, seek reconciliation with them, and show ourselves ready on all occasions to relieve them.” (Thomas Watson, *Body of Divinity*)

d) What forgiveness is NOT...

e) Why is forgiveness so difficult?

- The reality of the hurt.
- The reality of our own sin.

“For a cup brimful of sweet water cannot spill even one drop of bitter water, however suddenly jolted.” (Amy Carmichael)

f) How do we deal with someone unrepentant? 1 Peter

2:21–23; 2 Timothy 4:14–18

If you were to share a key insight from today’s sermon with a friend, what would you say in a sentence or two?

Application: Are there any areas of unforgiveness in your heart. Pray for the strength to forgive as God has forgiven you. Do you need to restore broken relationships through forgiveness? How can you live in the freedom and joy that comes from being forgiven and forgiving others?

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