



Sermons of the Savior

Matthew 6:12,14,15

Lesson 10

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors (Matthew 6:12). We all want to be *forgiven*. In this portion of our Lord's model prayer, Jesus reminds us that we must ask. He also reminds us that God's forgiveness is related to our *forgiveness* of others. We often regard sins against us as unforgiveable – yet, here, in this prayer, Jesus teaches that, if we want to experience the kingdom living He has been preaching about, we must pass on to others the forgiveness He has extended to us.

OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 6:9-15

1. As you read Matthew 6:9-15, focus on verses 12, 14, and 15 using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through those verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you they are about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. If you did not mark key words in previous lessons, please do so now. If you completed this part of the lesson in lessons 7, 8, or 9, you may skip to the "New to this Lesson" key words.

Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.

Please note: we will be using the Observation Worksheet at the end of this lesson, each week that we study the Lord's Prayer.

Key Words: *Father* (and any words that refer to Him)
our, us, we (mark each of these words the same way)

New to this Lesson: *debts/debtors/trespases, not/neither, and forgive*

3. Using Matthew 6:12,14, and 15 fill in the blanks:

And _____ our _____, as we _____ our _____.¹⁴ For if you _____ men their _____, your Heavenly Father will also _____ you.¹⁵ But if you do _____ men their _____, neither will your Father _____ your _____.

4. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 15. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. Why do you think Jesus included the topic of *forgiveness* in His model prayer?

2. A person may say that they *forgive* you. What evidence do you look for to determine whether that *forgiveness* is sincere or not?

3. How did you view *forgiveness* before you became a Christian?
 - a. What is different now regarding your understanding of *forgiveness*?

MATTHEW 6:12

1. Read the first phrase of this verse. What are we to pray?
 - a. Define the word *debt*.
 - 1.) What are some synonyms for the word *debt*?
 - b. In what ways are sins *debts*?
 - 1.) Who are we *indebted* to when we sin?

2. Describe the *debt* you owe to God.

a. According to Colossians 2:14, what did Jesus do with your *debt* (*the requirements against you*)?

1.) Explain Colossians 2:14 as you would to a new believer.

3. Notice, this portion of the Lord's Prayer begins with a request. Why is it important that we ask for *forgiveness*?

4. Read the second phrase of this verse. To what is God's forgiveness of our *debt* compared?

a. The following verses address our responsibility toward others. Record our responsibilities.

Matthew 18:21,22

Mark 11:25,26

Luke 6:37

b. According to Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:13, who is our pattern for *forgiving one another*?

1.) Describe the ways Christ has *forgiven* you.

a.) How are we to apply this pattern as we extend *forgiveness* to others?

5. All too often, believers do not *forgive* in the same manner as Christ has forgiven us. In what ways can man's *forgiveness* fall short of Christ's pattern?

6. Consider the beginning verses of the Sermon on the Mount, specifically Matthew 5:7. Notice the result of being *merciful*. What is it?

a. How is this portion of the Lord's Prayer an example of this beatitude?

MATTHEW 6:14

1. What is the promise of Matthew 6:14?
 - a. In what ways is this promise an encouragement to you?

2. Consider the words *your heavenly Father* in this verse. We have the same reminder in the beginning words of this prayer. How does knowing God in this way motivate you to *forgive*?

3. How does the extension of *forgiveness* towards others reveal a person's relationship with God?

4. Explain how understanding the price paid by Jesus on the cross for your sins, helps you to *forgive* others.
 - a. Share one or two words of advice you would give to a believer who is bound by *unforgiveness*.

5. How do the following Proverbs reveal a *forgiving* attitude?
Proverbs 19:11

Proverbs 24:17

Proverbs 25:21
 - a. What can we learn from these verses?

MATTHEW 6:15

1. In contrast to the promise of Matthew 6:14, what is the warning of Matthew 6:15?
2. Reflect upon Jesus' words in these portions of His sermon. How do they challenge us to have a *forgiving* attitude?

Matthew 5:39-41

Matthew 5:43-48

- a. Why is it so difficult to love those who *curse you, hate you, and spitefully use you and persecute you*?

- 1.) How would such a person know you have *forgiven* them?

- b. Notice the word *more* in Matthew 5:47. How is *forgiveness* an example of doing *more* than those who are not followers of Christ?

3. How does 1 Peter 3:9 relate to *forgiveness*?

- a. What are some of the *blessings* we experience when we *forgive* someone?

Challenge: It would be tempting to think Jesus was teaching that if we did not forgive others, we could lose our salvation. That would contradict Scripture. Use Scripture to prove this.

REVIEW: Read Matthew 6:12,14, and 15

1. What has this lesson taught you about forgiveness?
2. What have you learned about the importance of asking for forgiveness?
3. What is most meaningful to you about the way Jesus has forgiven you?
4. Share one thing that you feel is important that people understand about forgiveness.
5. In what ways has this lesson challenged you to allow the Lord to work His forgiveness through you to someone?

*When we were overwhelmed by sins,
You forgave our transgressions.
- Psalm 65:3 NIV*

Observation Worksheet

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.