

The Necessity and Power of Forgiving Others

➤ **Aspect #8 of The Lord's Prayer**

8. *As we forgive our debtors. (Luke: For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.)*

- We have a _____ to show to others the same mercy God has shown to us.
- However, forgiving others is more than a moral obligation – it is a _____ for us to receive and maintain God's forgiveness in our lives.

➤ **Consider**

- In the model prayer that He gave to His followers, Jesus knew that this aspect would probably be the most _____ for us to _____ and _____.
- In Matthew's account, Jesus' _____ words after the prayer focus on underscoring the point that those who are _____ by God _____ in turn offer _____ to others.

Matthew 6:14-15 (NKJV)

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.

- This understanding is shared by Jesus in other passages as well:

Mark 11:25-26 (NKJV)

25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Matthew 18:21-35 (NKJV)

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

28 "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

– From *The Origin of the Bible*:

"A talent was worth perhaps fifteen years' wages. In Matthew 18:24, the same man who asked to be excused from a debt of ten thousand talents (the tragi-comically unimaginable sum of the wages that might be earned in fifteen thousand years – "be patient with me and I will pay back everything!") refused to forgive the man who owed him the value of one hundred denarii-the wages of approximately three months."

Philip Wesley Comfort, *The Origin of The Bible* (1992), p. 253.

- From *Conformed to His Image*:

“When you release the wrongdoer from the wrong, you cut a malignant tumor out of your inner life. You set a prisoner free, but you discover that the real prisoner was yourself.

“Thus to forgive as we have been forgiven by God is an act of faith, since it means that we are releasing the right to resentment and that we entrust justice to God rather than seek it ourselves. To forgive is to act on the truth that it is only God and not we who can change another person.

“Because forgiveness can feel like outrageous injustice, it can be a lengthy process rather than a once-for-all event. Long after you have forgiven, the wound can linger in your memory... forgiving is not the same as forgetting or excusing or smoothing things over.

“True forgiveness is costly, especially when there is no repentance on the part of the wrongdoer. But it is the only way to release us... and to break the vicious cycle of blame.”

Kenneth Boa, *Conformed to His Image* (2001), pp. 50-51

➤ **Forgiveness Shared**

Matthew: *As we forgive our debtors*

Luke: *For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.*

- This prayer focuses our attention squarely on Calvary and God's great mercy towards us – the same mercy we are to _____ to others.

➤ **Being Like Jessu**

- Question: Do you want to be like Jesus?
- If so, then you must do the things He did... like offering forgiveness to those who didn't _____ it or even _____ for it.

Luke 23:34a (NKJV)

34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”