

# The Lord's Prayer - Part 4

Understanding the  
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

“And forgive us our debts, as we  
forgive our debtors.”  
(Matthew 6:12)

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John 6:63b



“Forgive us ... as we forgive...”, which means that our forgiveness of others is the measure of our own state of forgiveness, “for with the measure you use it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38).



If we cling to resentment, bitterness, or a desire for revenge, we appeal to principles that alienate us from reconciliation with others. But if we intend to have God be the Judge of others, we appeal to Him to be our own Judge as well.



This petition functions as a mirror for our hearts: as we forgive others who have sinned against us, so we apprehend the forgiveness of the LORD. Or, to put it the other way, our experience of the forgiveness of the LORD is revealed in the way we treat others who have wronged us.

*...and the Lord shall help them, and deliver them, because they trust in him.*



If we merely hear this truth but fail to practice it, we are like someone who looks at their face in a mirror but soon forgets what they saw, thereby exempting themselves from the truth of their own condition

(James 1:22-24).



## James 1:22-24

22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.



If we have an unforgiving spirit toward others, we will not be forgiven (Matthew 6:15); if we are judgmental toward them, we ourselves will be put on trial; if we are cruel and unkind toward them, we will experience life as hellish, miserable and mean.



## Matthew 6:15

15 But if you do not forgive others, then  
your Father will not forgive your  
transgressions.



This reciprocal principle of Kingdom life appears throughout Jesus' teaching. As you forgive, so you shall be forgiven (Matthew 6:14); as you judge, so you shall be judged (Matthew 7:2); as you show mercy, so you shall be shown mercy (Matthew 5:7); as you give unto others, so it shall be given unto you (Luke 6:38).



## Mark 11:25

25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”



## **Ephesians 4:26-27**

**26 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.**



## **Matthew 6:14-15**

14 For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

*...and the Lord shall help them, and deliver them, because they trust in him.*



## **Ephesians 4:32**

**32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted,  
forgiving each other, just as God in Christ  
also has forgiven you.**



## Proverbs 24:17

17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,  
And do not let your heart be glad when he  
stumbles;



## Hebrews 12:14

14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.



## James 1:19-20

19 This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.



## Colossians 3:12-13

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.



## 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

10 Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive.

Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, 11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.



## Ephesians 4:29

29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.



## Matthew 18:21-35

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.



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 for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 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 on your fellow servant, as I had mercy 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."