

Sermon Outline

FORGIVE US OUR SINS | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Matthew 18:21-35 (p.1401); Matthew 26:26-29 (p.1416)

"The Lord's Prayer"

1. Our Father in heaven

Big Idea #1: your picture of God determines how you pray

2. Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Big Idea #2: we pray for our Father's concerns before we pray for our situation

3. Give us today our daily bread

Big Idea #3: the biggest obstacle to prayer is self-sufficiency

4. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us

5. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

6. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever: Amen

The big idea: the way God treats us must shape the way we treat others

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Mt 6:14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

The parable of the unmerciful servant (Mt 18): 10000 bags of gold vs 100 silver coins

Q1. Does this prayer have "strings attached"?

i. This is NOT suggesting salvation by works

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith –and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God– 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions –it is by grace you have been saved.

ii. When God forgives us, it ALWAYS changes our attitude towards others

"If you are a Christian, always remember this: whatever someone has done to offend you pales in comparison to what you have done to offend a holy God". (Chris Brauns, *Unpacking Forgiveness* (2008))

Q2. Are there ever situations where I'm NOT required to forgive?

- if there is no repentance?

- forgiveness vs reconciliation?

Q3. What would help us to "earnestly desire" to forgive others?

i. Remember that God sees what's going on His world

ii. Understand that God helps us become more forgiving by allowing us to be wronged (!)

Even when sin and misunderstanding burden the communal life, is not the sinning brother still a brother, with whom I, too, stand under the Word of Christ? Will not his sin be a constant occasion for me to give thanks that both of us may live in the forgiving love of God in Jesus Christ? (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*)

iii. Better realize what it cost God to forgive us OUR sins (Mt 26)

Imagine if ...

What I've learned (and my response)

Advance notice of celebration of Holy Communion An Australian Prayer Book

The way to prepare yourselves is to examine your lives by the rule of God's commandments, and wherever you see you have offended in will, word, or action, there to repent and confess your sin to God, will full purposes of amendment of life.

And if you think that you have injured not only God but also your neighbour, then you must ask his forgiveness as well, and make good, to the full extent of your ability, any injury or wrong that he has suffered at your hands. You must likewise forgive others who have injured you, if you desire God to forgive your offences.

For if you receive the holy communion without God's forgiveness, you only increase the judgment under which you already stand. So then, should any of you be a blasphemer of God, a hinderer of his word, an adulterer, or be in malice or envy or in any other serious offence, repent of your sin, or else do not come to that holy table.