**Too Much Debt**

**Matthew 6: 5-15**

**5 “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 6 But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 “Pray, then, in this way: Our Father in heaven, may your name be revered as holy. 10 May your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11Give us today our daily bread. 12 And** **forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. 14 “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

 **I. Terms to Know**

**hypocrites** - people who pretend to be good or religious by doing things like praying loudly in public just to be seen by others.

**synagogues** - Jewish places of worship where people would gather to pray together.

**revered** - treating someone with great respect and awe.

**forgive us our debts** - "forgive us our sins" - it's like saying we are asking God to forgive us for the wrong things we've done.

**debtors** - people who have done wrong things.

**trespasses** - "mistakes" or "wrong things we've done" - basically, when we do something that isn't following God's rules, it's considered a "trespass" and we ask God to forgive us for those mistakes when we pray.

**II. Summary**: **Matthew 6:5-15, also known as the Lord's Prayer, is a passage in the Bible that teaches how to pray to God. It also summarizes ideas about forgiveness and the kingdom of God.**

 **What does Matthew 6:5-15 teach?**

* **Prayer: Jesus teaches how to pray to God as if no one else is listening.**
* **Forgiveness: Jesus teaches to ask for forgiveness for sins, recognizing that people are imperfect and need to repent daily.**
* **Daily needs: Jesus teaches to ask for what is needed in the moment, and to not be anxious about the future.**
* **Fellowship with God: Jesus teaches that sin can break the fellowship between God and humans, but that prayer can restore it.**
* **Protection from temptation: Jesus teaches to ask God to protect from circumstances that could lead to temptation.**
* **Relationship with God: Jesus teaches that God is a loving Father who has an intimate relationship with his followers.**

**III. Questions**

**1. Who should we not pray like?**

**2. Where should we go when we pray?**

**3. Who uses vain repetitions?**

**4. Who should we pray to?**

**5. What will happen if we don’t forgive?**