

## Matthew 6:1-15 TWO-PART Sermon

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#### TEXT-Summary

The first seven verses of chapter 6 continues the Sermon on the Mount and now also introduces the three chief acts of Jewish piety, almsgiving, prayer, fasting. Jesus continues to challenge the SELF-Righteousness of the Pharisees and teaches believers how to have a proper heart when they are practicing their goodness before others. For believers, our righteousness must be to HONOR Christ and NEVER ourselves!!!!

BEHIND ALL THIS IS PERHAPS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT TOPIC IN SCRIPTURE...."FORGIVENESS" (Right behind AGAPE LOVE)

#### **STEVE: LET'S RECITE THE LORD'S PRAYER TOGETHER**

MATTHEW 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> 'Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.] <sup>14</sup> "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

#### **HERE IS JESUS' BIG IDEA**

The Lord's Prayer is not a script to recite — it's a pathway into relationship, WITH GOD AND WITH OTHERS!!!!

Jesus teaches us: Who we're talking to

1. What we should want.....His will!!!!!
2. What we should trust Him for....Everything!!!
3. How prayer reshapes our heart to be in alignment with God's HEART!!!
4. AND THIS IS WHY FORGIVENESS IS SUCH A BIG DEAL WITH GOD.....As GOD loves us unconditionally and through His love (EXPLAINED through

*His Son Jesus), Gave us FORGIVENESS through His Son's Blood, making it possible to have a RESTORED, intimate relationship with God Almighty Himself....Talk about AGAPE in action!!!!!! ☺*

### **So the take away context becomes....**

..... Prayer is not for God's information.

..... Prayer is for our transformation.

### **Before Jesus gets to FORGIVENESS in the Lord's Prayer, He sets the stage....**

**Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”**

*This is the death of self-centered prayer and our introduction to God's will, which in this context of the Lord's Prayer is... the Love of Others THROUGH the mechanism of FORGIVENESS!!!!*

### **KEY POINTS ON FORGIVENESS:**

- 1. Right up front, Forgiveness is NOT permission to hurt me again!!!!  
However don't forget Peter's question to Jesus...**

*Matt. 18:21-22 Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.*

- 2. It's IMPOSSIBLE to stay bitter....and stay close to God at the same time.**

This is why you will never FEEL FORGIVEN from God, why its NOT possible for God to forgive you UNLESS you are forgiving others...SAID ANOTHER WAY, as a believer in Jesus, your relationship is secure through the blood of Jesus, **HOWEVER: Your intimacy with God is compromised if you refuse to forgive others**

- 3. Forgiven people are commanded to forgive others...Full Stop, PERIOD!!  
And...Unwillingness to do so is the sin of OMISSION!**

And BTW, We forgive, Not to earn grace — but because we are already saturated in the grace of God!

**QUESTION: Why do YOU think Jesus circles back to forgiveness (vv.14–15)**

**4. Unforgiveness doesn't hurt others — But it will destroy you!**

You may be justified...

You may be right...

You may be wounded...

But unforgiveness turns the wounded into victims for as long as they hold onto it...sadly for some believers, I have seen too many die in a state of misery, sin and cancer...#1 Joy Robber of Believers in Old Age!

**5. Grace received from God, must become grace released to others...AND today is the day God is giving you the grace to extend it to others!!!!**

**Let me give you a word picture of summary of the Lord's Prayer....**

Most people treat prayer like: calling their boss or filing a request or reciting a script.....

**Jesus on the other hand treats prayer like:** Coming home, or sitting on your Father's lap, or just having a conversation with your Daddy to be reshaped by His will.....and find the power to Forgive as you have been forgiven

**The Lord's Prayer is not about getting God to do what we want**

**It's about: becoming the kind of people who want what God wants!!!!**

**THEREFORE, Forgiveness is NOT a side issue. It is the litmus test of your spiritual maturity.** *"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you..."* (Matt 6:14)

**6. We forgive NOT because, someone deserve it, or it was a small offense or it didn't matter, *But because God just reminded us, We have been forgiven MORE!* Every time we refuse to forgive we are saying: "My sin needed mercy, but theirs needs punishment." Sorry, but That's spiritual amnesia.**

**SO HOW CAN I HELP YOU OVER COME UNFORGIVENESS?** So glad you asked ☺

### **STEP 1: FACE THE WOUND, DON'T SUGARCOAT IT**

**Admit who hurt you to God**, and please don't drag someone else's sin before others, unless full disclosure is necessary to protect others....

**Unforgiveness hides behind words like “I'm fine” or “It really doesn't bother me.”** Remember, Jesus says forgiveness is spiritual business with the Father (**Matt 6:15**: “But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.), so we must be honest with God our Father...

#### **Pray out loud privately to God:**

“Father, I was wronged by \_\_\_\_\_ and it still hurts.”

KEEP IN MIND: You can't forgive what you keep denying!

### **STEP 2 — RELEASE THE OFFENDER TO GOD'S JUSTICE**

**Forgiveness is not saying they were right.** It is saying: “*God, You will judge this — not me.*” **Matthew 6:15 means your heart must stop demanding repayment.**

#### **Say Instead:**

“Lord, I release them from owing me. I put them in Your hands.”

**REMEMBER:** You are not excusing the sin — you are **dropping the case.**

### **STEP 3 — REMEMBER HOW MUCH YOU'VE BEEN FORGIVEN**

I know what you are thinking, *This verse hits hard because it points back at ME.*

#### **BUT this is Jesus' logic:**

*If you won't forgive... you don't understand how much you've been forgiven.*

#### **If you need to stand at the foot of the cross and say:**

“Jesus, You forgave me when I didn't deserve it. I choose to pass on what I received.”

**ANOTHER LITTLE ZINGER YOU PROBABLY WON'T LIKE ME FOR LATER, BUT I LOVE YOU ☺:** Unforgiveness shrinks the cross, BUT, Forgiveness magnifies it.

## **STEP 4 — SPEAK THE FORGIVENESS OUT LOUD**

Forgiveness is not just an emotional choice — it is **a decision of obedience**.

### **PRAY IT OUTLOUD THIS WAY:**

“In Jesus’ name, I forgive \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.”

**You may need to say it 10 times.**

**You may need to say it for 10 days.**

**But, every time you say it, chains fall off.**

Unforgiveness is a cancer. BUT, *Forgiveness* is chemotherapy for the soul.

## **STEP 5 — KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN DAILY**

Remembering that Jesus tied forgiveness to prayer in Matthew 6 reminds us that forgiveness is **daily maintenance, not a one-time moment.**

### **Let me offer you a suggested prayer adapted from Psalm 51:**

*“Father, please keep my heart soft because I refuse to carry a hard heart that Jesus died to remove.” Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not quench Your Holy Spirit in me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. And sustain me with your Holy Spirit so that I might teach sinners Your ways, as their hearts are softened and converted to You.*