



Sermon Title: “Forgive Us Our Debts”

Speaker: Kelly Kinder

Date: 10/27/2019

Forgiving is love's toughest work, and love's biggest risk. If you twist it into something it was never meant to be, it can make you a doormat or an insufferable manipulator. Forgiving seems almost unnatural. Our sense of fairness tells us people should pay for the wrong they do. But forgiving is love's power to break nature's rule. (Lewis Smedes)

The Believer’s Need for Forgiveness (Matt. 6.12)

A. The Request Desired (12a)

...and forgive us our debts,

Forgiveness is our _____ need because _____ is our biggest problem.

2 kinds of forgiveness we all need ...

1. _____ (Positional) Forgiveness.
2. _____ (Practical) Forgiveness.

B. The Condition Required (v.12b)

...as we also have forgiven our debtors.

We ourselves hold the keys to the _____ of unforgiveness.

Forgiveness is a _____, not an emotion.

Forgiveness is not _____ if we want it ourselves.

Forgiveness is always _____.

The Father’s Heart in Forgiveness (Matt. 6.14-15)

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (6.14-15) (cf. Mark 11.25)

Our Father, being a good Father, will not ignore an _____ spirit because he knows what it does to us and to those around us.

God desires for us to live in the _____ of forgiveness. If you cannot forgive, you cannot be _____.



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Some Practical Steps to Forgiveness:

1. Take an inventory of your sins.
2. Consider how much God in Christ has forgiven you.
3. Seek to understand and be understood (Mt.18.15ff).
4. Pray blessing on the person who has hurt you (love/serve/give).
5. By faith take the IOU they owe you and give it to the Lord.

Fill-ins:

- greatest, sin
- Judicial
- Parental

- prison
- choice
- optional
- costly

- unforgiving
- freedom, free

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do we need to pray for forgiveness if we receive it at conversion?
2. Recall a time when you have been offended by someone. How did you feel? How did you handle your emotions?
3. Why is forgiveness so difficult for most people?
4. Describe the difference between judicial and parental forgiveness. How does knowing this help us to better understand the Father’s heart? (hint: John 13.5-15)
5. How do you know when you have truly forgiven another person?
6. Does forgiveness require that the other person repent? Why or why not?
7. Is there someone today you need to forgive?