



Hardest Prayer You'll Ever Pray...

WEEK 7 • "Forgive us our debts..." • Matthew 6:5-15, ESV

⁵"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when 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"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for

your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread, ¹²and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

INTRODUCTION & DISCLAIMER

M&M's chocolate candy— sweet and delicious on the inside, but hard and fragile on the outside. Most of us are just the opposite: we are all melty, sweet, and southern chocolaty on the outside, but inside there is a hardness so deep and fragile we hardly ever go there. This is the Disney Haunted Mansion. Take a deep breath, pray, and let's 'go there'.

Our focus today is verse 12: "Forgive us our _____ as we also have forgiven our _____!"

DO YOU REMEMBER THE "GOLDEN RULE"?

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Simply put that means— Treat other people like you want to be _____. In the Lord's Prayer, with regard to forgiveness, Jesus reverses the order and teaches us to pray saying, " _____ me like I _____ others!"

Forgive _____ like I have forgiven others. Think about that. Think about making that kind of request from God. "Dear God, I want you to forgive me, but please Sir, first look at my heart, look at how I have forgiven others, and then forgive me like that." This is one of the _____ prayers you will ever pray.

PETER AGREES. TURN TO MATTHEW 18:21-35

- Peter wants to know how many times he's obligated to forgive someone who sins against him
- Jesus tells the parable of the unmerciful servant and we need to do a little math

Denarius= _____

Talent = _____

How long to earn 1 talent? _____

How many talents did the first servant owe? _____

How many denarii did the other servant owe him? _____

In real terms the first servant owed the king _____ years of labor and his fellow servant owed him _____ Days wages.

*Who has your heart been choking with the hands of unforgiveness? Parents? Friends?
Who owes you 100 days labor that you have imprisoned in your heart?*

Usually right here we say, "Well, I'm not God!"; "I can't forgive like that!"; "God doesn't really mean for me to be like that, It's more of an Ideal... This is aspirational, not practical!"

It's like Jesus knew we'd have this problem with forgiveness. I want you to see how serious Jesus was. Look back at Matthew 6:14-15.

And knowing that we go week after week to the throne of God and say, "Dear Lord, look into my life. Look at the way I forgive and if I forgive men, then you forgive me; If I don't forgive men, then don't forgive me. Settle my account with you the way I settle accounts with others."

Jesus' point is this: if we _____, _____, or _____ forgive those who sin against us, then it is likely that we have not tasted or seen the true forgiveness of God in Christ and therefore will not be forgiven ourselves.

LASSLEZ IES BON TEMPS ROULLER! IT'S GUMBO TIME!

At the end of the day my real concern was about me and my bowl, _____ the portions I gave to others! What if I asked one of the guests to get up and measure out my portion the same way I did theirs. If I was going to ask them to do that I had better have loaded up their plate, right? Yet, I go before God Sunday after Sunday in the Lord's Prayer asking him to measure out my forgiveness with the same ladle that I use to measure out forgiveness to others.

THIS ISN'T HARD PRAYING, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE PRAYING! EXCEPT FOR 1 THING...

God served up your forgiveness first! God took your immeasurable _____ and paid it in full. When you and I sinned in _____, _____, and _____ God took out the big ladle and measured out forgiveness to us. Not what was best for Him; Not what was best for His Son; He measured out what was best for us— a gumbo (if you 'll pardon the expression) of Grace and forgiveness!

In a sense...We are standing face to face with God, having had His forgiveness lavished on us, and He asks us, "Are you willing to use the ladle I used with you to measure out forgiveness to others?" It's a hard question, but an even _____ prayer because when we pray as Christ taught us we ask Him to use our own ladle on us!

FORGIVE ME MY DEBTS, AS I HAVE FORGIVEN MY DEBTORS!

Measure out my forgiveness as I have measured it out to others! How could he ask us to use such a large ladle? Because He did! "Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing." and they divided up his clothes by casting lots." *Luke 23:34*

JESUS INSTRUCTS US TO PRAY AND IMPOSSIBLE PRAYER BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT HE WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

Take that sin, that pain, that act of pure evil, that place you never go, that whoever has done to you and hold it up to the cross of Christ—

- Which debt is greater?
- Who is the real sinner?
- May God give us the grace to forgive others as He has forgiven us!