



The Critical Need of Our World Today
Luke 11:1-4

We pray for God's pardon for ourselves/others.

^{4a} and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

Text Message:

- o While this is an application of the prayer, it would not have been the primary meaning in Jesus' day (we'll get to that!).
- o Here we do a heart-check regarding what we

need to be forgiven for and what we need to forgive in others:

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!^[a] And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!^[b]

Psalm 139:23-24

- o The word “grievous” in the ESV is translated as “wicked,” “evil,” “offensive” in most English translations.
- o It’s vital to see that the context of this verse is not the Psalmist “beating himself up,” but the unfathomable love of God!
- o This part of the prayer is Jesus’ invitation to internal healing!
- o We can experience God’s blessing but do so ***on His terms!***
- o ***His terms:*** “we forgive everyone who is indebted to us.”
- o To experience the fullness of God’s blessing in forgiveness without forgiving others is as likely as flying a plane with one wing!

We pray for God's pardon for our church.

^{4a} and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

Text Message:

- o This is the primary meaning, as Jesus' disciples would build the church and experience persecution from enemies:
"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." Luke 6:27-28
- o Here we pray grace for the Persecuted Church to forgive those who count themselves as enemies of Christ.
- o And we also pray for forgiveness for the sins of the church, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us. It could be:
 - 1) Lack of desire for spiritual things and more of God.
 - 2) "Sunday morning" Christianity.
 - 3) Spiritual lethargy in prayer and Bible reading.

- o It's important to recognize that when we pray this, we pray not for "those people" in the church, but "us."
- o This may go against modern individualism but was readily understood in the collectivist culture of the ancient world:
When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions. Psalm 65:3

We pray for God's pardon for our world.

^{4a} and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

Text Message:

- o Our go-to meaning for this verse is personal sins, Jesus' disciples would have understood it in a national sense.
- o Forgiveness equaled healing in the land (2 Chronicles 7:14).
- o Forgiveness was seen as God acting to heal the land. If Israel remained an occupied people under rule of another, whether the Greeks in the second century B.C., or the Romans in the first century, the nation was still in need of God's forgiveness.

- o This was the paramount issue in Jesus' day, and different sects looked to either the Temple or the Torah as the answer.
- o Jesus offered an alternative solution: "Follow me."
- o God still wants to forgive and heal our world but does so only with His people: "If my people..." (2 Chronicles 7:14).