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## The Lord's Prayer – Forgiveness

August 16th, 2026 by Kasey Crawford

Today's Passages: **Matthew 6:5-15, Matthew 18:15-17, 21-35**

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus is teaching a simple yet deep framework for how to cultivate a connection and communion with God in all of life.

***...And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors***  
**Matthew 6:12**

In teaching this aspect of prayer, Jesus clearly believes that, through prayer, you can become an astonishingly powerful person.  
Forgiveness is not \_\_\_\_\_ it is power.

This phrase of prayer is like a daily spiritual detox. Jesus wants to make sure you are living clean and free each day.

*Our connection with God: "forgive us our debts"*

Jesus invites you, through prayer, to walk daily in God's complete forgiveness of your sins. Your past mistakes are not more \_\_\_\_\_ than what Jesus did on the cross.

Receiving forgiveness is a daily way to bask in the undeserved goodness and love of God.

**Oh See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1**

*Our connection with people: "as we also have forgiven our debtors"*

What is forgiveness? The Greek word that Jesus uses in both the Lord's Prayer of Matthew 6 and the parable in Matthew 18 is *aphiemi*. This word literally means "to let go, to \_\_\_\_\_."

Jesus teaches that forgiveness is letting go of the \_\_\_\_\_ to punish.

**Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."**

**Romans 12:19**

When we forgive someone and to let go of our right to punish, we give it up to God and trust that God will ultimately take care of it in a just way.

Where do we get the strength to forgive?

The punchline of the story in Matthew 18 is...it would be unthinkable absurd if a servant that had 100 million days wages completely forgiven then turned around and demanded payment from someone who owed him a paltry 100 days wages! \_\_\_\_\_ are the ones who have racked up 100 million days of debt with God but He has let go of the right to punish us, so therefore we should forgive those who have offended us.

Or as the Apostle Paul later summarized perfectly: **"Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13**

Doesn't forgiveness make us doormats?

Jesus does not call you to tolerate being mistreated by those you are supposed to trust. Jesus ultimately gives you the right to set a healthy boundary and remove someone from relationship with you if the person wronging you is not willing to \_\_\_\_\_. (**Matthew 18:15-17**)

This teaching (Matthew 18:15-17) from Jesus shows that there is a clear difference between forgiveness and \_\_\_\_\_. Forgiveness is when you let go of the right to punish and entrust ultimate justice to God. Reconciliation is when you are restored to fellowship together through repentance on behalf of the person who has sinned against you. God always wants you to extend forgiveness as your way of embodying his Kingdom of grace but reconciliation is not always possible if they are not willing to change.

**Responding to God...**

Is your heart clean and free from the bondage of guilt and shame through *receiving* complete forgiveness as his beloved child?

Is your heart clean and free from the bondage of anger, bitterness, and offense through *extending* forgiveness to others?

answers: weakness, powerful, release, right, we, change, reconciliation