

*Oakland Church of Christ
Sermon Series*

*The Lord's Prayer - A
Transformed Life Through
Prayer*

*Forgive Us Our Debts
Matthew 6:12*



The Necessity of Forgiveness

- **Isaiah 43:25** - I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.
- **Ephesians 4:32** - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
- **Colossians 3:13** - Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

**The first to apologize is
the bravest. The first to
forgive is the strongest.
And the first to forget is
the happiest...**

**Holding a grudge
doesn't make you
strong; it makes you
bitter. Forgiving doesn't
make you weak; It sets
you free.**

Forgive Us Our Debts

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

How Often Should I Forgive?

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

PRAY FOR PATENCE AND STEADFASTNESS

- **Lamentations 3:22-23** - The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
- **Romans 5:8** - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **2 Peter 3:9** - The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Thankfulness vs Self-Preservation

- **Matthew 18: 23-27** - Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

PRAY FOR TRUE THANKFULNESS

- **Ephesians 2:4-5** – But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved
- **1 John 4:16-19** - So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 19 We love because he first loved us.

Oppression vs Mercy

- **Matthew 18:28-30** - But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

PRAY FOR MERCY OVER JUDGEMENT

- **James 2:12-13** - So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.
- **Romans 9:15-16** - For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

Nothing is Hidden Before the Lord

- **Matthew 18:31-34** - When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.

PRAY FOR CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

- **Proverbs 15:3** - The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.
- **Ecclesiastes 12:14** - For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.
- **Hebrews 4:13** - And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Consequences – Forgiveness or Unforgiveness

- **Matthew 6:14-15** - For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- **Matthew 7:2** - For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.
- **Matthew 18:35** - So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

TRANSFORM – FIND TRUE FORGIVENESS

- **AS JESUS DID FROM THE CROSS**
- **Luke 23:33-34** - And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34 And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.
- **STEPHEN WHEN BEING STONED**
- **Acts 7:59-60** - And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.