

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 6:12

3/10/24

Matthew 6:12 – “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

I. WHAT ARE OUR DEBTS?

- A. Our sin debt to God is ETERNAL
- B. We cannot manufacture our own forgiveness
- C. “Forgive us our debts” = a cry for God to save us

II. THE FORGIVENESS WE HAVE

- A. Judicial forgiveness of God – declared forgiven and righteous
- B. This forgiveness frees us to pursue holiness
- C. Our pursuit of holiness is not perfect

III. THE FORGIVENESS WE NEED

- A. Parental/relational forgiveness
- B. Our sin affects our relationship with God
- C. We seek forgiveness to be restored to a right relationship with our Father

IV. THE FORGIVENESS WE GIVE

- A. Forgiven people forgive

Matthew 18:35 – “So also my heavenly father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

- B. People hurt us less than we hurt God
- C. The Gospel is what makes forgiveness possible

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Can it be hard to seek God out for forgiveness? Why or why not?
3. Why is forgiveness so hard for us to give others?
4. How do you know when you have truly forgiven someone?
5. Forgiveness covers both our vertical relationship to God and our horizontal relationship to others. Do you find one more difficult than the other?
6. How does unforgiveness affect our spiritual walk?
7. Why would it be important to understand the difference between Judicial and Relational forgiveness?
8. How does the Gospel enable us to forgive others?
9. What does it communicate about God that He readily forgives our sins?

LOOK UP EPHESIANS 4:32

10. What do we learn about the nature of our heart in regard to forgiveness?
11. What would be true of a heart that was unforgiving?
12. How do we cultivate a heart that is tender towards others?

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

- This week we are going to pray for our Easter services at MCC.
 - We are 3 weeks away. We want to be praying for the visitors that will come to our church for this special service.
 - Pray for boldness to invite people to come to our services.
 - Pray that God would bring salvation to our church and that He would change lives here.
 - Pray that our services would bring honor and glory to God's name and the Gospel message!