WEEK ELEVEN: CANCEL THE DEBT

Hear the story. See the King. Answer the call. Mthw 18:21-35

1. When have you found yourself keeping score of someone else's offenses? What does that reveal about your heart?
2. How does remembering the mercy you've received through Jesus change the way you look at what others owe you?
3. Are there ways you've continued trying to make someone pay for the hurt they've caused you? What does that look like in your life?
4. What would it look like for you to release personal vengeance while still being honest about the offense and maintaining any necessary boundaries?

WEEKLY CALL

Name the debt honestly before God... and begin releasing your claim to personal vengeance.

Remember the mercy you've received... and become a person who extends mercy.

Signup To Receive Questions via Text or Email @

www.1stFreeWillBaptist.Church/Go-Deeper-Signup

PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK ELEVEN: CANCEL THE DEBT

Matthew 18:21-35

Whose debt are you still trying to collect after Jesus canceled yours?

OPENING REFLECTION

This prayer guide invites you to bring your "ledger" before God - those debts you've been collecting from others. As you pray through these sections, remember that Christian forgiveness begins not by minimizing what others did to us, but by remembering what Christ has done for us.

SECTION 1: ADORATION – REMEMBERING THE KING

Scripture Meditation

- Matthew 18:27 (NIV) - "The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go."
- Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV) - "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Guided Prayer Template

Begin by sitting quietly and reflecting on God's character.

"God, help me see You clearly today. You are merciful, holy, and just. You canceled a debt I could never repay. As I pray about the debts others owe me, remind me of Your character and Your grace toward me. Let the size of Your mercy reshape my heart."

Adoration Prompts

- Acknowledge God's mercy - "Lord, You are a God of mercy and compassion. You see me completely, yet You offer me grace."
- Remember the cross - "Jesus, You bore the cost of my forgiveness. You died for my sins and rose again, offering me new life."
- Declare God's justice - "Father, You are the righteous judge. You see all things and will bring true justice."

SECTION 2: CONFESSION – NAMING THE LEDGER

Scripture Meditation

- Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV) - "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'"
- 1 John 1:9 (NIV) - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

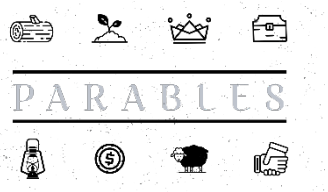
Guided Prayer Template

This section invites honest acknowledgment before God.

"God, I confess that I have been keeping score. I've been holding onto the debt owed to me by [name/situation]. I've replayed what happened. I've imagined what they deserve. I've hoped they would hurt like I've hurt. Forgive me for making vengeance my focus instead of releasing it to You. I confess that I received Your mercy, yet I've refused to extend mercy to others."

Confession Prompts

- Name the debt - Identify the specific person or situation. Say their name or describe what happened.
- Confess your response - Be honest about how you've handled it:
    - Have you deliberately rehearsed the offense to feed resentment or seek revenge?
    - Have you told the story in ways that made them look bad?
    - Have you hoped they would suffer?
    - Have you withheld mercy or kindness?
- Acknowledge the cost - Recognize what unforgiveness has cost you:
    - Emotional energy spent on revenge
    - Relationships strained by your bitterness
    - Peace lost to resentment



PRAYER GUIDE

SECTION 3: THANKSGIVING – RECEIVING MERCY

Scripture Meditation

- Matthew 18:23-27 (NIV) - "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go."
- Romans 5:8 (NIV) - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

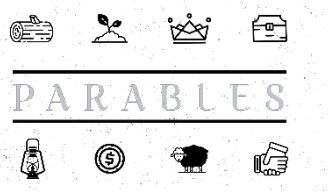
Guided Prayer Template

Shift your focus from what you're owed to what you've been given.

"Thank You, Father, for the mercy You've shown me in Jesus Christ. Thank You that when I couldn't pay my debt, You didn't demand payment - You canceled it. Thank You for the cross, where Jesus bore the weight of my sin and judgment. Thank You that I'm forgiven, reconciled to You, and given new life. I don't deserve this grace, yet You've given it freely. My heart overflows with gratitude for Your extraordinary mercy."

Thanksgiving Prompts

- Thank God for unearned mercy - Your forgiveness was not earned. It was a gift.
- Thank God for the cross - Jesus absorbed the cost of your debt.
- Thank God for new life - You've been given a fresh start, reconciliation, and hope.



PRAYER GUIDE

SECTION 4: SUPPLICATION – RELEASING THE LEDGER

Scripture Meditation

- Matthew 18:31-35 (NIV) - "When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."
- Proverbs 19:11 (NIV) - "A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense."

Guided Prayer Template

Now ask God for the grace to release what you've been holding.

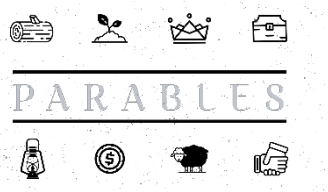
"Lord, I ask for grace to release this debt. I'm not pretending what happened didn't matter - it did. I'm not erasing healthy boundaries - I need them. But I'm asking You to help me stop making vengeance my master. Give me wisdom to tell the truth, establish boundaries where needed, and protect myself if necessary.

Help me forgive from my heart, not just my words. If reconciliation is possible, guide that process with genuine repentance and healing. If distance is required for safety, give me peace with that decision. But in all things, help me refuse to let hatred own my heart.

Make me more like Jesus. Transform me by Your Spirit so that the mercy I've received flows through me to others. I place justice into Your hands, trusting that You see all things and will judge rightly."

Supplication Prompts

- Ask for wisdom - Pray for discernment about boundaries, accountability, and reconciliation.
- Ask for grace - Request supernatural help to loosen your grip on vengeance.
- Ask for transformation - Invite the Holy Spirit to make you more like Jesus.



PRAYER GUIDE

CLOSING PRAYER

"Father, thank You for meeting me in this prayer time. You know the debts I'm carrying and the mercy I've received. By Your Holy Spirit, transform my heart. Help me remember what Christ has done for me every time I'm tempted to collect what others owe me. Make me a person through whom Your mercy can flow. In Jesus' name, Amen."

JOURNALING PROMPTS

Spend 2-3 minutes reflecting on these questions in a journal:

1. "The size of my debt before God compared to the debt I'm holding against [name] is..."
2. "If I released this ledger, I would feel..."
3. "What the cross teaches me about forgiveness is..."
4. "One way I can begin releasing vengeance this week is..."
5. "How can I release personal vengeance while remaining ready to forgive and maintaining necessary boundaries?"

PRAYER GUIDE

THIS WEEK'S "CALL"

Name the debt honestly before God and begin releasing your claim to personal vengeance.

- Tell God the truth about what happened and what it cost you
- Remember the King and the cross
- Ask God for grace to loosen your grip on the ledger
- Establish healthy boundaries if needed
- Trust God with justice

Remember: You can release vengeance because you belong to a King who judges rightly and has shown you extraordinary mercy.

HEAR THE STORY.

SEE THE KING.

ANSWER THE CALL.

PARABLES

PRAYER GUIDE