

Pray like Jesus: God Forgives—Do You?

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – August 21, 2011

Matt 6:9-13

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

1. FORGIVE BECAUSE GOD FORGIVES US

Romans 3:23-25

23... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

Eph 4:31-32

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Acts 7:59-60

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

2. FORGIVE BECAUSE IT IS REQUIRED OF US

Matthew 6:14-15 (Jesus said immediately after Lord's Prayer)

14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Mark 11:25

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

3. FORGIVE BECAUSE IT FREES US

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." Lewis B. Smedes

Unresolved Anger becomes Unforgiveness,

and Unforgiveness becomes Bitterness,

and Bitterness takes Root in our Heart,

and holds us in Bondage and will Consume

us.

Jesus taught us to Forgive because He knew the power of Unforgiveness to Destroy us.

And He knows the power of Forgiveness to Free us.

Ezekiel 36:26

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

CONCLUSION:

- Who do you need to forgive?

- Who wins if you forgive?

- Who loses if you don't?
