

“The Lord’s Prayer: Forgive Us Our Sins”

Luke 11:1-4

Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

- A. We have come to our study of Luke’s gospel to find ourselves with Christ in the School of Prayer (v. 1)
 - 1. It’s known as “The Lord’s Prayer”
 - 2. Today, we come to God’s pardon (v. 4) and “forgive us our sins” for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us
 - 3. “Forgiveness is as indispensable to the life and health of the soul as bread is for the body.”
 - 4. *“I could dismiss half my patience tomorrow if they could be assured our forgiveness.”* – John Stott
 - 5. This prayer, if seriously prayed, would bring healing to our fractured spiritual relationship with God and our broken relationships with people
- B. Jesus is teaching us in this petition that true prayer contains:
 - 1. A request for personal forgiveness
 - 2. A request for a forgiving spirit

II. It’s First a Prayer for Forgiveness (Luke 11:4)

- A. “And forgive us our sins” (v. 4)
 - 1. This prayer for the forgiveness of sins is out of step with our times. We don’t use the word sin, yet it meets a universal need in every person.
 - 2. We have all sinned (Romans 3:23)
 - a) *“Jesus is speaking of forgiveness that is given after justification of a disobedient child of God.”* – James Boice
 - b) “For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified” (Hebrews 10:14).
 - 3. What is sin?
 - a) It is breaking God’s law
 - b) Commission and omission
 - c) Action or attitude
 - 4. Pictures of sin in the Bible
 - a) Defilement
 - 1) “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin” (Psalm 51:2).
 - b) Darkness
 - 1) “If we say that we have fellowship...” (1 John 1:6)
 - c) Sickness
 - 1) “They that are whole need not a physician” (Luke 5:31)
 - d) Lost
 - 1) (Luke 15)
 - e) Debt
 - 1) “And forgive us our debts...” (Matthew 6:12)
 - 2) “Indebted to us” (Luke 11:4)

5. The fundamental qualification for praying this prayer is knowing that we are debtors or sinners
 - a) How many say this prayer and don't really believe it?
 - b) Sin is a serious matter
 - c) The south that sinneth shall surely die
 - d) "The wages of sin is death"
 6. Only God can forgive sin
 - a) How?
 - 1) The cross
 - 2) Grace
 - 3) Through faith
 7. If we are to understand this important prayer for forgiveness, we need to remember there are two types of forgiveness for the child of God.
 - a) Remember, this prayer is for the Christian. Christians do sin and need to pray for forgiveness. What kind?
- B. Forever forgiveness
1. Initial or final
 2. When you first come to Jesus for salvation, all your sins, past, present, and future, are forgiven (justification)
 - a) "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:34)
 - b) "There is now..." (Romans 8:1)
 - c) This is not the kind of forgiveness Jesus is teaching us to pray for
- C. Fellowship forgiveness
1. There are some who foolishly teach that once you have been born again, you never again need to pray to be forgiven
 2. Christians have a new nature, but they still have to battle with the world, the flesh, and the devil
 3. Christians do sin
 - a) "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say the we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 John 1:9-10).
 - b) *"This is the family prayer we are considering, and it does not deal with the sins of unbelievers. It does not deal with our standing before God, which can never be affected; it concerns the sins of the children of God."*
– Allen Redpath
 - c) Illustration- Peter's bath and feet (John 13)
 4. When an unsaved person comes to God for forgiveness, or when a child of God confesses their sins to God, both can be certain of God's forgiveness
 5. God is faithful to keep His promises
 - a) (John 3:16)
 - b) (1 John 1:9)
 - c) Word- Father
 - d) Work- Son
 - e) Witness- Spirit
 6. One of the most common sins of the saints is forgiveness
 - a) Note, the second half of the petition

III. It's a Prayer for a Forgiving Spirit (Luke 11:4))

- A. "For we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us" (v. 4)
 - 1. This is the part of the prayer that leads St. Augustine to call it a "terrible petition"
 - a) He realized that if we pray this prayer with forgiveness in our hearts, we are actually asking God to forgive us
 - b) "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12)
 - c) "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15).
 - 2. Is Jesus teaching that we can earn forgiveness?
 - a) Jesus is saying that we cannot truly pray for forgiveness unless our hearts are right regarding other people. An unforgiving heart cannot receive forgiveness.
 - b) God does not work by halves. He will not allow us to come to Him confessing half a sin while hanging onto the other half.
 - 1) It has to be all or nothing!
 - 3. You cannot pray this prayer unless you are willing to forgive
 - a) Illustration- The Prodigal Son and the elder brother (Luke 15)
 - b) "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. And be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:30-32).
 - c) When you forgive, you are most like Christ
 - 1) Illustration- The servant who would not forgive (Matthew 18:21-35)

IV. Conclusion

- A. Ask yourself
 - 1. A prayer for forgiveness?
 - 2. A prayer for a forgiving spirit?
 - a) (Ephesians 4:32)