

**The Gospel of Matthew #60**

**Sermon on the Mount: chapter 6: LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

**HOW TO PRAY: I. WHO WE PRAY TO: OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN**

**II. WHAT WE PRAY FOR: 6 PETITIONS: 1<sup>ST</sup> 3 FOCUS ON HIM**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 3 FOCUS ON US: #5: FORGIVE US AS WE FORGIVE (3)**

**Matthew 6:12, 14-15; Ephesians 4:31- 5:2**

**JUST AS**

6:12: Forgive us **AS** we forgive

6:14: If you forgive, your Father will forgive you

6:15: If you do not forgive, your Father will not forgive you

Expanded in **Matt 18:21-35:**

Forgiven people are forgiving people (cf Matt 5:7)

When Christians refuse to forgive, they place themselves back under the Law and suffer. If that does not get their attention, they should question whether they have ever experienced God's saving mercy!

A final look at the amazing Gospel dynamic of forgiveness:

**Ephesians 4:31 – 5:2**

**I. PUT \_\_\_\_\_: BITTERNESS (v31, cf v22)**

**II. PUT \_\_\_\_\_: KINDNESS (v32a, cf v23-4)**

Not enough to stop being bitter; must replace it with kindness!

**III. PUT \_\_\_\_\_: HIS/HER DEBT, BY GRACE (v32b)**

**Remember what forgiveness actually is: canceling a debt.**

A costly promise (not feelings or amnesia) to

Absorb the cost of the sin and **not bring it up again:**

1. To your former debtor: accusation
2. To others: gossip
3. To yourself: brooding

IV. PUT \_\_\_\_: **THE GOSPEL** in your mind & heart (v32c-5:2)

“Just as...”

A. The \_\_\_\_\_: just as God forgave you because of Christ’s sacrifice

Great sin against you should give you a deeper sense of your sin against God, and the wonder of His mercy to you!

(Contra Matthew, this written after the atonement, so the Gospel dynamic is now clear)

B. The \_\_\_\_\_: just as

Not partial or when deserved, but full and free. Not minimize the offense. God did not!

Clarifying biblical forgiveness:

1. A promise you make, not feelings you have, or erasing memories beyond your control.

The feelings and fadings come as a result of the promise over time

2. A craft learned by Gospel practice:

a) daily

b) dramatic

3. It is not avoiding confrontation of sin.

Matt 18:21-35 follows 18:15-20 on confronting sin!

4. It is not the same as reconciliation.

You forgive independently of the other person.

You invite reconciliation

But that can only come when they, or you both, repent

Your forgiveness softens your heart to hear.

C. The \_\_\_\_\_: the passive imperative of the Gospel

Eph 4:31: “all bitterness..... **let it be removed** from you...”

You decide to promise, but that is only possible by God’s grace and power in the Gospel as you look at Jesus

(5:1-2), your new emotional focus.

Do NOT apply this to others, but to YOURSELF—NOW.

See the grace of Christ for you—and others.