

The Lord's Prayer: Debts and Debtors

Psalm 51:1-17 ❖ Matthew 6:12

"The greatest thing that anyone can do for God and man is to pray.
It is not the only thing, but it is the chief thing."
(S. D. Gordon)

Wounds

No one makes it through life free from _____.

No one makes it through life without inflicting _____.

Intentionally and unintentionally, people _____ us.

Intentionally and unintentionally, we _____ God and people.

How we deal with those injuries is important to _____.

Debts and Debtors

The second request re. us in the Lord's Prayer (or more accurately the _____ Prayer, since Jesus was perfect) is about _____.

This petition can be confusing. Presbyterians say "debts and debtors," because the KJV translated the Greek word for _____ as "debts," and the Westminster Confession of Faith quoted the KJV. But Catholics, Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans, and Baptists say, "_____ " and "those who _____ against us," because they used other translations.

In recent years, many Christians have started to simply say, "forgive our _____ as we forgive those who _____ against us."

However, debt _____ the perfect metaphor for sin, because day after day and night after night, our debt to God grows, and there is no way for us to _____ it off. No amount of penance/human effort can suffice. That's why Jesus taught His disciples to ask for _____.

"Have _____ on me, O God, for I _____ my transgressions," David prayed in Psalm 51, "and my sin is _____ before me" (vv. 1, 3).

This petition in the Lord's Prayer/_____ Prayer is about _____ situations, not civil or criminal ones.

Forgiven people _____.

The Arithmetic of Forgiveness

"Forgiving someone who has hurt you is one of the _____ things you will ever do. It's so hard, in fact, that I don't believe you can really do it without _____ help. The key is to understand how much God has forgiven ____." (Billy Graham)

When Jesus taught us to pray, "**Forgive us our debts _____ we forgive our debtors**" He was not implying _____ forgiveness of our sins is dependent on _____ forgiveness of others. It's a prayer _____.

In Matthew 18:21, Peter spoke for all the disciples (and for _____, too) when he asked Jesus, "Lord, how many _____ do I have to forgive my brother when he sins against me - seven times?"

Jesus answered, "**Seventy-seven times**" - an _____ number of times. Then He told a parable about a King who forgave a _____ debt owed to him by one of his servants; the same servant, however, refused to forgive a _____ debt a fellow servant owed him.

In the parable, the King turned the unforgiving servant over to the jailers to be _____ until he paid back all he owed, which of course was impossible to do while imprisoned.

Four insights from Jesus' parable about the unforgiving servant:

- 1) God forgives our _____ debt; He will help us forgive those who owe us comparatively _____ debts.
- 2) When a Christian refuses to forgive another Christian, it _____ him or her.
- 3) The _____ of the debt has no bearing on whether God expects us to forgive a person.
- 4) Forgiveness is both a _____ and a _____.

Living Debt Free

"Create in me a _____ heart, O God," David prayed. (Psalm 51:10).

Forgiveness is both _____ and _____.

It _____ Jesus His life to forgive our debts. Forgiveness is/will be _____ for us, too.

Ernest Hemingway's short story "The Capital of the World" is about a father who finally _____ his son and realized he had to tell him.

To whom is God prompting you to say, "All is _____"?



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