Forgive us our debts

Part 1 – Let it go

# SERMON DESCRIPTION FOR ONLINE

In order to be a Christ follower, you must walk in the spirit and attitude of forgiveness, you must be forgiven, and you must forgive others.

# SERMON QUESTIONS & OBJECTIVES

1. What do they need to know?
	1. Forgiveness is fundamental to Christianity
2. Why do they need to know it?
	1. When we forgive others we act as Christ would
3. How should we apply it?
	1. We must walk in forgiveness

# INTRODUCTION OF THE SERMON

You will find no greater faith deal, then you will with God and Christianity! What other faith provides forgiveness for your past, promises for your present and eternal life for your future? None, there are none, only Father God provides this incredible exchange of sin for grace and it is found in Christ Jesus.

# CENTRAL TRUTH

In order to be a Christ follower, you must walk in the spirit and attitude of forgiveness, you must be forgiven, and you must administer forgiveness.

# READING – MAIN PASSAGE

The Lord's Prayer

Mat 6:5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Mat 6:6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Mat 6:7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Mat 6:8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Mat 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Mat 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Mat 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

Mat 6:12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

Mat 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Mat 6:14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Mat 6:15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

# TRANSITION STATEMENT (Ties The Introduction To Your Message)

* **The trademark of any believer in Christ is that they walk in the spirit of forgiveness**
* **If you cannot and will not forgive then you are probably not a disciple of Jesus Christ**
* **Forgiveness is not an option it is a requirement**

# MAIN POINTS

Two critical principles of forgiveness:

**PRINCIPLE** - You cannot be offended you must take offence

**PRINCIPLE** - The concept of an apology is the worst thing that has happened to Christianity, the kingdom principle is forgiveness

1. The follower of Christ must first be forgiven
	1. At times, you may need to forgive yourself as well, even though God has forgiven you
	2. Continuously torturing and punishing yourself is a waste of emotional capital
	3. Luk 7:47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."48 Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."
	4. 1John 1:19 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
2. Forgiveness means releasing others from their faults
	1. As Christ forgave you
3. The follower of Christ must walk in forgiveness – it is a faith life style
	1. It takes faith to forgive
4. Forgiveness is an act and a process. Even when a person decides to forgive another person, feelings of relief or healing are usually not immediate.
	1. Forgiving someone can be difficult and uncomfortable.
5. Forgiveness does not mean forgetting. Forgiveness does not require you to become a “doormat.”
	1. Forgiveness does not require you to open yourself up to the offender to be hurt again.
6. Forgiveness does not wait for the offender to apologize or earn forgiveness in some way, it’s an act of our choice and will to forgive from our hearts and not our heads.

# QUOTES & STICKY STATEMENTS

**Quotes**

***“Un-forgiveness is baby hate”***

***“People that hold on to un-forgiveness make little to no spiritual progress”***

***“We have been told to forgive and forget. But if it can be forgotten the issue of forgiveness does not arise. The difficult Biblical way is to forgive while still remembering”. David Edwards***

***“Un-forgiveness is not a trait of holy people”***

***Forgiveness is a the great liberator***

# NOTES & THOUGHTS

The spirit of forgiveness has key aspects that are common to all common to every believer within the Body of Christ, consider:

* God expects that all believers will practice the act of forgiveness continuously
* Forgiveness does not depend on the nature of the offense, nor should it be applied with a scale mindset
* Forgiveness does not guarantee that there will be resolution to the said conflict i.e., a mend in the relationship
* Forgiveness is to be offered whether there is restitution or not
* Forgiveness does not demand retribution either before or after
* Forgiveness is an essential part of prayer as demonstrated by Christ in the Our Father
* When we operate in forgiveness we operate as Christ
* Forgiveness can be administered and be effective whether people are directly in front of you or not (Jesus demonstrated this on the cross when He said “Father forgive them”

**Question:** Who would you not forgive if given that option, that is the person you should probably start with.

**What Jesus said about Forgiveness…**

1. Every believer needs to realize that they have been forgiven (by God) much more than they will ever have to forgive [Luke 7:47-48]

2. The realization of our need to be forgiven and the acceptance of such causes our love for God to grow deeper and stronger [Luke 7:47-48]

3. With the same measure that we forgive others, God forgives us [Matt 6:12]

4. Our heavenly Father will not forgive us our sins unless we first forgive others first [Matt 6:14]

5. Jesus has the power to forgive sins [Matt 9:6]

6. Forgiveness is a not a mathematical equation, it is a matter of will and obedience [Matt 18:21]

7. Those who refuse to forgive others will be handed over (by God) to the tormentors [Matt 18:34]

8. The followers of Christ have been given the ability to forgive sins [John 20:23]

**Wisdom Principles**

A. Give room for vengeance [Rom 12:9]

 Illustration: BR for SDM

B. Forgiveness needs to start at home [Isa 58:7]

 “If it does not work at home, do not export” – Pastor Vanderklok

C. The Joseph Principle: Understand that what the devil means for evil God intends to turn it and make it work for your good and His glory” – Pastor Tony Soldano

 [Gen 50:19-20]

*Joseph said to them,"Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good , in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive*. (NKJV)

“There isn’t a situation that God cannot turn for your good, if we walk in love and wisdom” – Pastor Tony Soldano [Rom 8:28]

“Forgiveness is a requirement not an option”

“Do you want relationship or do you want to be right”

Forgiveness is the great spiritual liberator

# THE CALL TO ACTION

Determine in your mind that you will walk in the attitude and in the spirit of forgiveness in all situations. That you will put on the character of Christ and behave as he would as it relates to offence.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the greatest obstacles in forgiving others?

2. Why did Jesus teach that the father only forgive us if we forgive others?

3. How is the concept of forgiveness the great spiritual liberator?

4. If I provide forgiveness for others will they get away with what they did?

5. How is it possible that unbelievers are able to forgive others, even if they don’t believe in God or Christ?

6. How do I know that I have truly forgiven what are the indicators?

7. If God is able to forgive, why does he expect me to do it as well?

8. “you cannot be offended you can only take offence”, do you believe this statement, what does it mean to you?

9. How does an apology differ from forgiveness? Why is an apology not kingdom based?