

## Teach Us to Pray: “*Forgive Us*”

*Matthew 6:12, 14-15*

### ***Praying for Forgiveness (v. 12a)***

Jesus teaches us to pray for forgiveness

Forgive (ἀφίημι): To release or send away something

Jesus states that we need our debts sent away

This is *not* a reference to monetary debt

But rather spiritual debt accrued via sin (Luke 11:4; Ps 103:12)

### ***Offering Forgiveness (v. 12b)***

Jesus states that our ability to receive God’s forgiveness is dependent on our willingness to forgive others

The assumption is that we have already forgiven others

This is hard to do, which is why Jesus expands on this part of the prayer (Matt 6:14-15)

Our ability to receive forgiveness is directly tied to our willingness to offer it

Forgiveness is not a declaration of innocence

Rather, it is a declaration of guilt

And asking for forgiveness is a declaration of our sinfulness

When we understand the magnitude of our own indebtedness to God and His willingness to forgive us, it should move us to forgive others

This is about the condition of our hearts (Matt 18:21-35)

When we are unwilling to forgive others, we are keeping ourselves imprisoned (Col 3:13)

### **So What?**

Are we seeking God for forgiveness?

And are we offering it to others freely?

**Meditation Verse:** *Matthew 6:12*