

Our Savior

"40 Days of Prayer" series- Part 04

Connect: Remember a time God restored a relationship of yours. What can you recall about that experience?

Hook: I read the story about two men who were both in a hurry when they accidentally bumped into one another. One man became very angry and annoyed and cursed the man for not paying attention to where he was going. The other man stepped back and then said, "*I don't know who's at fault for our collision, but if it's my fault, please forgive me. If it's your fault, please don't give it another thought.*" With that said, he hurried on to his appointment.

Which of these two men are you most likely to respond in kind? What life experiences do you suppose made the difference in these two men's behaviors?

In the Model Prayer, Jesus has taught us that we can boldly approach God in prayer because: 1) He is our perfect Father who loves us dearly, 2) He is our wise King who possesses unlimited resources, and 3), He is our gracious Provider who gives us all things that we need. Today, as we continue to study this prayer, Jesus reminds us that despite our sinfulness and vileness, God is our Savior who offers forgiveness.

Matthew 6:9 Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy.

Matthew 6:10 May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:11 Give us today the food we need,

Mat 6:12 and *forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.*

Jesus took many opportunities to teach us the importance of seeking and granting forgiveness. Let us look at one of the great lessons on forgiveness found in Matthew 18:

Book: Matthew 18:21-35

Mat 18:21 Then Peter came to Him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

Mat 18:22 "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

Mat 18:23 "Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him.

Mat 18:24 In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.

Mat 18:25 He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

Mat 18:26 "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.'

Mat 18:27 Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

Mat 18:28 "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

Mat 18:29 "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded.

Mat 18:30 But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

Mat 18:31 "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened.

Mat 18:32 Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me.

Mat 18:33 Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?'

Mat 18:34 Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

Mat 18:35 "That's what My heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

Look:

In the Judean law, it was understood that forgiveness must be extended 3 times to someone who has offended. What does Peter's question (verse 21) suggest about his understanding of forgiveness?

In what ways does being injured by another create a debtor relationship?

What are my motivations in forgiving others?

Why did the unfaithful steward not forgive the man who owed him a much smaller debt?

What about the person that does not come seeking forgiveness and repent?

How does God's forgiveness serve as a model of forgiveness for you?

Took:

What has God taught you this past week during your times of prayers?

How can you pray for your group this evening and this week?

Is there a situation where you need to grant forgiveness? What will you do?