



## **Forgiveness Psalm 32:1-7**

### Review

- We look to enjoy God's presence and know that is where full joy is found.
- We honor God as holy; We render to Him the worship He is due, and that He desires.
- We look forward to His kingdom. We seek to advance it. PC--"My kingdom go, Your kingdom come."
- We enjoy His will, His sovereignty in our lives. God's ways to be obeyed here.
- We ask for daily needs. God wants us to ask (after we are in the right frame of mind).
- We ask for forgiveness. We need abundant mercy, because we are abundantly guilty.

**"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."**

### Forgiveness

Last week's sermon, the focus in the Lord's Prayer--"Forgive us our debts" leads us somewhere. Somewhere supernatural. Somewhere we cannot fathom of going--to forgiving others of their debts towards us.

Jesus tells a parable:

**Matthew 18:21-35** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he

demanded. 29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ 30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

- 150,000 years of wages, vs. a little over 3 months wages. Billions, vs. thousands.
- Find ourselves reading this story like David hearing Nathan’s story last week--we are INCREDULOUS at this wicked, ungrateful, unforgiving servant.
- WE’RE THE WICKED, UNGRATEFUL, UNFORGIVING SERVANT!
- We are called to FORGIVE!
- Is this possible? How in the world do you do this? This is supernatural. Only supernatural people...like people who have been born again, can do things like this. You can’t do this, you won’t choose to do this, in the flesh.
- If you CAN’T do this, you may not be born again.
  - This is not primarily about you and the other person.
  - You are probably justified in your hurt...the pain is real. You might be right in a court of law.
  - This is about you and God.
- There’s a reason we start, even in the prayer, on focusing on God’s forgiveness of us. This is why all the “God focus” so far in the prayer.

**So how has God forgiven us? Look at Psalm 32, another penitent Psalm, written after Psalm 51.**

**Psalm 32:1-7** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah* 5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah* 6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

- Blessed, not because he was upright (Psalm 1), but because he has been forgiven!
- David was miserable when he was silent. Could not find rest.
- Finally acknowledges his sin to God. **Leviticus 5:5** “when he realizes his guilt & confesses his sin...”
- Jim Cymbala--“I discovered the astonishing truth: God is attracted to weakness. He can’t resist those who humbly and honestly admit how desperately they need him.

- Offer a prayer of forgiveness “when You may be found.” God can always be found! So NOW is to time to ask God for forgiveness. Daily.

**Ephesians 4:32** And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

**We don’t just forgive others. We forgive them the SAME way...in the SAME manner...as God has forgiven us! “In proportion as, in the degree that”**

<b>How God forgives us</b>	<b>How we should forgive others in the same way</b>
God is REALLY patient and long suffering	Don’t be so easily offended! Don’t look for offenses.
God goes first (may grant them repentance)	We can initiate, go first, pursue. This is tough! Don’t wait until asked.
Sin is covered (forgiven, lifted)	We choose to forgive. It’s not a quid pro quo.
The account is clear. PAID IN FULL. No debt.	The account is clear. No more offense, debt.
No more heavy burden, no longer weak, weary.	Our brother is strengthened, his burden lifted!
Not remembered ( <b>Hebrews 10:17</b> “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.)	We don’t bring the offense up again. It’s gone.
We are now safe w/ God. We are preserved.	The relationship is truly restored!
God shouts of our deliverance, our reconciliation!	We rejoice at a reconciled relationship!

Couple of notes:

- This does NOT mean there are not consequences to sin.
- This does NOT mean we continue to put ourselves in position to be hurt.

**Again I ask, is this possible? Can this really be done?**

As Dylann Roof, the gunman accused of killing nine people inside a church in Charleston, South Carolina, appeared in court on Friday to formally hear the charges against him, representatives of the victims' families came forward to deliver a powerful message of forgiveness. "You took something very precious away from me," a family representative for Ethel Lance, the 70-year-old grandmother who died in Wednesday's massacre, told Roof on behalf of Lance's loved ones. "I will never talk to her ever again. I will never be able to hold her again. But I forgive you and have mercy on your soul. You hurt me. You hurt a lot of people, but I forgive you." Some of the victims' family members also invited Roof, who attended his bond hearing through a video conference, to join them in bible service to repent and to "change your ways no matter what happened to you."

Felicia Sanders, who survived the shooting by pretending to be dead, also spoke about losing her son in the attack. "Tywanza was my hero....May God have mercy on you." Another family member, Bethane Middleton-Brown, whose sister was killed on Wednesday, told Roof, "For me, I'm a work in progress and I acknowledge that I'm very angry. We have no room for hate. We have to forgive. I pray God on your soul."

**Colossians 3:13** "bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."