

PRAYER 101 (PART 3): IF IT'S BROKEN, FIX IT
MATTHEW 6:12, 14-15

I. Seeking forgiveness - Matt 6:12

What is sin? We talk about it a lot, but what is it?

- *parabasis* - to step across the line; trespassing
- *paraptoma* - a misstep
- *hamartia* - most common; miss the mark; Homer spoke of the warrior *Hamartei* who hurled his spear but missed his foe

Romans 3:23

- *ὀφείλημα* - Debts, obligations to God and others.

We can't pay back the debt to God

- *aphiemi* - to dismiss, leave behind, abandon; disciples left their nets
- *apoluo* - to let go, send away or release
- *charizomai* - to give or to give freely; related to "grace"
- Col. 2:13-14

1 John 1:9

Refusing to acknowledge sin has costs:

- With God - Isaiah 59:2; 1:15; Psalm 66:18
- We suffer - Psalm 31:10

II. And Granting Forgiveness - Matthew 6:12, 14-15

Forgive = release person from the debt owed to you

- Matthew 18:21-22
- 2 Timothy 4:14-15

Just because God has forgiven you - Ephesians 4:32

Matthew 18:23-35

Delivered over to the torturers

- 2 Timothy 4:16

Application

Prayer is the place where all debts are cancelled.

- Can't linger long without confessing
- Can't linger long without forgiving

Time for confession

- Someone you need to confess to?
 - o Because you have wronged that person
 - o Because you need to be known
- Perhaps you need to just confess something to the Lord

Time to offer forgiveness

- Someone you need to release
- In your heart; phone call; letter

Summary

Every relationship can fall on difficult times when wrongs are committed. Forgiveness is the pathway to healing, both in our relationship with God and in our relationships with one another.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- a. How would you define "sin"?
- b. What does it mean to "confess" sin to God or to others? Why is it often difficult for us to confess?
- c. How does our relationship with others affect our relationship with God?
- d. Is there any wrong committed against you that you feel unable to forgive? How can you begin the process of forgiveness?
- e. What are the benefits of forgiveness? What are the costs for refusing to forgive?
- f. Is there someone you need to forgive tonight? Is there someone whose forgiveness you need to seek tonight?