

## **Forgive Us Our Debts, As We Also Have Forgiven Our Debtors**

Matthew 6:7-15

We have spoken these words so often we no longer hear what Jesus is calling us to do: be a forgiving people, always. How realistic is this?

Forgiving others is at the heart of following Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer leads us to see three things about the nature of forgiveness.

1. The necessity of forgiving: The linkage in being forgiven and forgiving
  
2. The reason for forgiving: Love for God and his people
  
3. The steps in forgiving
  - a. Willingness to obey Jesus
  - b. You pay the debt
  - c. Speaking the truth
  - d. Ongoing; not a one-time action
  - e. Release vs reconciliation
  
4. The compelling motivation to forgive: The depth of your own forgiveness

### **Reflection questions:**

1. Do you say the Lord's Prayer and realize what it is calling you to, or have you passed over what Jesus is saying to us about the necessity to forgive?
2. Do you daily "check-in" with God about your sins? Do you daily "check-in" about your need to forgive others?
3. Does knowing how much God loves his "messed-up" people help you to love people in your family and in the church by asking for and giving forgiveness?
4. Which step in forgiving is the hardest for you to do?
5. Are you continually aware of how deeply you have been forgiven by Jesus paying your debts on the cross? Why is this understanding so important?