

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

“Forgive us our debts”

When Jesus uses the word “debt” in his prayer, he is helping us understand that financial transactions demonstrate an important aspect of sin. There’s a certain feeling that accompanies the knowledge of being indebted. It ranges from embarrassment to shame to determination. When we seek God’s forgiveness, we are bringing this awareness into a conversation that recognizes both that we *can* be forgiven and that God *wants* to forgive.

Being indebted robs us of relational peace with God (and others). Before we dive into the second part of this prayer (i.e., “forgiving others”), let’s pause in this moment to discover how Jesus wants his followers to be changed by God’s healing forgiveness.

- Do you recall a time when you paid back a significant debt? What feelings and thoughts did you experience? What are your current feelings about being indebted to someone?
- What is Jesus teaching his followers by inviting our daily recognition of sin and request for forgiveness?
- What do you believe when it comes to God’s perspective of your past sin?
- If we profess Jesus as Lord, we believe he has forgiven us *already* for our sin. What then do we gain from requesting forgiveness and confessing sin *regularly*?
- As a community-prayer, how can we seek God’s forgiveness on behalf of others/our whole community?
- DIG DEEPER: Read Jeremiah 17:9-10. What does the prophet reveal about the “heart of man”? In Mark 7:14-23, Jesus describes the true cause of humanity’s sin. How can “heart-sickness” reveal itself in external ways? What are the options do we have in dealing with the “evil that proceeds from within”?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Write the “forgive us our debts...” prayer in your own words below.

MATTHEW 6:12 NASB

(Jesus said, “When you pray...pray then in this way...”)

¹²“...And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

JEREMIAH 17:9-10 NASB

“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it? ¹⁰“I, the LORD, search the heart. I test the mind. Even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.

MARK 7:14-23 NASB

¹⁴After (Jesus) called the crowd to Him again, He *began* saying to them, “Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. ¹⁶[If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”]

¹⁷When he had left the crowd *and* entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable. ¹⁸And He *said* to them, “Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?” (*Thus He declared all foods clean.*) ²⁰And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²²deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness. ²³All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”