



## Introduction

### Matthew 6:25-33

- I. \_\_\_\_\_: Your Heavenly Father knows what you need!
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ the birds.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ the lilies.

II. \_\_\_\_\_: God wants to satisfy us completely!



## DAY 1

Prayer: Psalm 103:10-14 says, “He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a Father shows compassion to His children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.” Spend some time spiritually breathing...*Inhale*: Thank the Lord that He doesn’t deal with us according to our sins, thank Him for His undying love, for the forgiveness of sins. *Exhale*: Confess any area of sin that God has been showing you He wants to free you from. Ask Him to help you to hate the sin as much as He does. *Inhale*: Thank Him for His compassion and understanding. *Exhale*: Ask Him to search your heart and lead you in the way everlasting.

Memorize: Quote what you have memorized up until this point... Matthew 6:9-11. Now say vs. 12 several times, emphasizing different words each time.

Matthew 6:12 “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Bible Study: Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27.

1. From vs. 1, what did David do during the time “when kings go out to battle?” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What event followed because of David’s choice to stay home...where he should not have been?
  - a. Vs. 2 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Vs. 3 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Vs. 4 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Vs. 5 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Look at the progression of David’s choice to sin...1) He walked where he shouldn’t have been. 2) He inquired – setting his mind on someone that he had no right to claim. 3) He stepped over into sin.
  - a. What is an area of sin that trips you up? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How do you follow that same progression?
    - i. Walking where you will fall...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ii. Setting your mind on it...

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iii. Stepping into the sin...

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4. How did David handle the news that Bathsheba was pregnant? (Vs. 6-21)

- a. His first try...vs. 1-11 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. His second try...vs. 12-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. His final try...vs. 14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Think of your answer from #3. What are some specific ways that you have wrongly tried to handle your sin after the fact (Justify it, ignore it, manipulate circumstances)?

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6. Proverbs 18:1 says, "Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment."

- a. How did David isolate himself? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. How did he break out against sound judgment? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. How do you isolate yourself when you're tempted to sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. What sound judgment do you break out against? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Sin is never done in a vacuum. How did David's selfish desire affect those around him?

- a. The Lord \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Bathsheba \_\_\_\_\_
- c. His servants \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Joab \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Uriah \_\_\_\_\_

8. How does our sin affect those around us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Why is it important that we don't ignore our sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Why do you think God doesn't ignore your sin (See Isaiah 48:17-18)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Close this time in prayer using P.U.R.P.L.E. Talk with God about an area of sin where you struggle.
- a. Praise Him for His redemption.
  - b. Understand His perspective and will about that sin.
  - c. Rest in Him, asking Him to help you to trust Him in this.
  - d. Pour out your heart to Him, asking for forgiveness and telling Him about your struggle.
  - e. Let His word dwell in you. Pray His word back to Him about this sin.
  - f. Entrust yourself to Him, asking Him to help you to surrender it all to Him, trusting that He loves you and will lead you to all that is good, pleasing, and perfect.



# DAY 2

Prayer: Ephesians 1:7-8 says, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight..." Thank the Lord for His redemption that is not dependent on your goodness. Ask Him to reveal to you anything that you need to surrender to Him, knowing that He is your loving Master and Father who is lavishing the riches of His grace on you.

Memorize: Fill in the blanks...

Matthew \_\_\_\_:12 "And \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_."

Bible Study: Read 2 Samuel 12:1-25.

1. From vs. 1-6, how did Nathan capture David's attention to show him his sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Think of a time where you have sinned and not faced the reality of it until after the fact. What are some reasons that we can be blind to our own sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did David respond to Nathan's story?
  - a. Then David's \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ against the man.
  - b. He said, "the man who \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_."
4. Think of a time when you have justified your own sin while condemning someone else's. What resulted from that? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was David's response to Nathan when he was confronted with his sin (vs. 13) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did David say his sin was against the LORD (See Matthew 25:40, 45)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the Lord's 2 part response to David (vs. 13-14)?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Many people have said, "I know what I'm doing is wrong, but the Lord will forgive me." Explain the relationship between forgiveness of sin and facing consequences. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. From vs. 15-19:

a. How did the Lord carry out the consequences of David's sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. How did David's response in vs. 16 show a change of heart from Ch. 11? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What did David do when his baby died?

a. Vs. 20 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Vs. 24 \_\_\_\_\_

11. How did the Lord show David His forgiveness (vs. 24-25)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. How do you respond to the Lord when faced with the consequences of your sin \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Psalm 51 was written by David in response to being confronted with his sin. Close today by reading Psalm 51. Notice especially vs. 4, 6, 7, and 17. Tell the Lord your response to His word.

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\_\_\_\_\_



# DAY 3

## Forgiving Others: The Master's Pardon

Prayer: 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Thank the Lord now for his willingness to forgive your sin and cleanse you. Confess to the Lord your need for Him and His forgiveness in your life.

Memorization: Continue memorizing Matthew 6:12 today by filling in the blanks, "and \_\_\_\_\_ us our \_\_\_\_\_, as we \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_."

Bible Study: Today let's move to a parable of Jesus that demonstrates to us not only God's great mercy in forgiving us, but the kind of forgiveness we are to offer to others. Begin today by reading Matthew 18:21-35, the story of the unforgiving servant. Today we will look at the master in the story and his response to the servant who owed him a great debt.

1. Jesus begins this parable as a response to a question from Peter. What was Peter's question in verse 21? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you think Jesus means when he responds to Peter's question, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Are you willing to forgive others over and over as Jesus instructs us here? What might hold you back from offering forgiveness to others in this way?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Jesus then begins to describe the way in which we are to forgive others by telling a parable. Who are the characters in this parable?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What's happening as the story begins (vs 23)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How much money did the servant owe the master (vs 24)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The amount the servant owed the master would be equivalent to millions and millions of dollars in today's economy.

7. Since the servant could not pay the debt owed to the master, what did the master order (vs 25)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What does the servant do and say in response to the master's order?

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Though the servant tells the master that he will pay back all that he owes, it would not have been humanly possible for him to do so in his lifetime because his debt was so great.

9. What is the master's response to the servant? Fill in the blanks. "Out of \_\_\_\_\_ for him, the master of that servant \_\_\_\_\_ him and \_\_\_\_\_ him the debt.

10. Notice the 3 things that the master does for the servant.

a. First, he feels \_\_\_\_\_ for him. This word can also be translated as compassion or "to be moved in the inward parts". Can you think of a time that you were moved with compassion for another person? Describe it.

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b. Then he \_\_\_\_\_ him. This means that the master let him go without pressing a claim against him. This term implies the annulment of an existing bond. Imagine that someone just released you from a large sum of money that you owe, like a mortgage on a house. What would your response be?

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c. and \_\_\_\_\_ him the debt. This means that the master pardoned him. So the master breaks the bond that required the servant to pay him, and he pardons the full amount of the money that he owes.

11. Understand that in this parable you are the servant. Because of the Lord's great compassion for you, he has not only forgiven your sin debt through Christ, but he has released you from the bonds of sin that put you in debt! Describe how this makes you feel and how the servant in this parable should have felt as a result of this great pardon.

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12. End today in prayer, recognizing the great debt you owed the Lord, one that you could never pay. Thank the Lord for his compassion for you. Praise him for releasing you from the bonds of sin and forgiving your debt through Christ.

## DAY 4

### Forgiving Others: The Servant's Response

Prayer: Colossians 3:13 says, "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." Thank the Lord now for the completeness of His forgiveness in Christ. Ask Him to help you to extend the same type of forgiveness to others and to help you understand the mercy He extends to us as we study today.

Memorization: Continue memorizing Matthew 6:12 by speaking it out loud. Then write it on the lines provided.

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Bible Study: Read Matthew 18: 21-33 again. Yesterday we looked at the master's response to the servant as he released him from his bond and forgave his debt. Today let's look at the servant's response to his fellow servant after experiencing the master's great pardon.

1. Look at verse 28. Who does the servant find after he leaves the master and why is this person significant to him?

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A denarius was equivalent to a day's wages, so this servant was owed about 100 day's wages by his fellow servant. This amount is larger than some scholars suggest, but in comparison to what the 1st servant owed the master, it was very small.

2. What did the 1st servant do to him?

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3. What's the response of the 2nd servant in verse 29?

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4. Look back at vs. 26, at the 1st servant's response to the master. What do you notice about the responses of both servants?

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5. What does the 1st servant do to the 2nd in verse 30?

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6. This servant had just been forgiven the great debt that he owed his master! Why do you think that the servant was not merciful to his fellow servant as his master was merciful to him?

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7. What was the response of the people (all the other servants) when they saw how the 1st servant threw his fellow servant in prison? How did they feel and what did they do (vs 31)?

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8. What's so upsetting about the behavior of the first servant in this passage?

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9. Perhaps the servant in this parable seems harsh and foolish to you. How could he not offer forgiveness to his fellow servant when he had just been forgiven such a great debt? Remember, though, that the servant in this parable is me and you. When we choose not to forgive the "fellow servants" in our own lives, we are just as foolish and harsh as the servant in this parable, and we are not understanding the great debt that we ourselves have been forgiven by God.

Prayerfully answer the questions below.

a. Do you hold onto debts that you feel others owe you?

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b. When you do hold onto debts that you feel others owe you, what does that demonstrate about your understanding of God's forgiveness?

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c. Is there any person in your life whom you have not forgiven? Here are some questions to consider when thinking about this issue of forgiveness. If the answer to any of these questions is yes, there may be an unforgiveness issue that you need to deal with.

1. Do you wish harm on anyone? 2. Are you continually thinking destructive thoughts about anyone? 3. Are you thinking up scenarios in your head about what you could do to someone to harm them? 4. Are you happy at someone else's misfortune? 5. Do you feel sick to your stomach when you see someone you don't like? 6. Do you find yourself trying to turn others against someone you don't like?

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10. Let's look now at the master's response to the servant when he finds out that the servant has been unforgiving. What does the master tell the servant? Fill in the blanks from verses 32-33.

"You \_\_\_\_\_ servant! I \_\_\_\_\_ you all that debt because you \_\_\_\_\_ with me. And should not you have had \_\_\_\_\_ on your fellow servant, as I had \_\_\_\_\_ on you?"

11. What was the final end of this servant (vs 34)?

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12. End your time today with prayer by acknowledging to the Lord any areas of unforgiveness in your heart and asking the Lord to help you to choose forgiveness in every area of your life.

# DAY 5

## Forgiving Others: A Heart of Mercy

Prayer: Psalm 86:5-7 says, "For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love (mercy) to all who call upon you. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me." Thank the Lord now for the abounding mercy that he shows you. Thank Him for answering you when you call on Him. Ask Him now by faith to root the truth about His forgiveness into your heart as you study today.

Memorization: Review Matthew 6:9-12 now by saying it out loud. Then write it out on the lines below.

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ :  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bible Study: Answer the following questions.

1. Look back at Matthew 18:33. What characteristic should the 1st servant have treated his fellow servant with according to the master? \_\_\_\_\_

2. This word mercy means "to have compassion and pity by divine grace" and "to show mercy as God defines it, covenant-loyalty mercy".

a. Notice that the mercy and forgiveness that we are called to offer others only can be practiced by "divine grace". God by his spirit must empower us to live out this mercy filled, forgiving life! Ask the Lord now to empower you by his spirit to forgive and live a life of mercy towards others. Tell Him of your need for his power to live out the will of the Father in this area.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Also notice that God's mercy is not dependent on us, but on His covenant-loyalty. God does not forgive us because we deserve forgiveness, but because of who He is. What does this tell you about the way in which we are to forgive our "fellow servants"?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. In order to understand and live out the mercy that God calls us to, let's study the characteristics of the mercy that he shows us. Look up the following scriptures and record what they teach you about God's mercy. (The words "steadfast love" in the ESV can also be translated "mercy")

a. Lamentations 3:22-23:

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b. Psalm 86:5:

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Psalm 103:17:

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d. Luke 1:78:

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e. 1 Peter 1:3:

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4. What do you learn about God's mercy from these scriptures? Summarize what you found.

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5. How can understanding the mercy of God towards you help you in forgiving others?

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6. The call to forgive each other flows throughout scripture. (See Luke 17:3-4 as one example). Forgiveness is not easy, but it is possible with the Lord's help. It is a choice (not a feeling) that we make to release a person from the debt that they owe us. Whether that debt is very large or quite small, we must *continually* release the situation to the Lord and forgive the person who we feel owes us. Think back to yesterday's homework. Is there someone that you need to choose to release and forgive? Make that choice right now by writing a prayer to the Lord. If no one comes to mind at this time, pray for the strength to release and forgive others when that time does come.

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7. Look back at the parable now in Matthew 18. What is the outcome (vs 34) for the servant because he chooses not to forgive his fellow servant?

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8. The word for jailers here means "a guard in a prison whose function was to torture prisoners as a phase of judicial examination – prison guard, torturer". What does this tell you about the price of unforgiveness in this life?

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9. What is Jesus' final warning to us in verse 35?

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10. What does this tell you about the importance of forgiveness and the need to forgive others?

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11. End your time of study today with prayer. First, thank the Lord for the great display of mercy he has shown you by forgiving you in Christ. Lift your hands to the Lord now and ask Him to develop in you a heart of mercy like His own. By faith tell Him of your desire and willingness to forgive as you surrender to Him, understanding the eternal cost of unforgiveness.

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\*Are you struggling with unforgiveness and deep hurt? Please know that we love you and want to help you in any way we can. Forgiveness does not mean that we are justifying what a person did; it is simply releasing the debt that they owe us. In forgiving others we are freeing ourselves from them. If you need to talk with a pastor or staff member or group leader, please know that we are more than happy to talk through any issues with you and support you as you walk through the process of forgiving.