

The Lord's Prayer: The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

This petition reminds us that we are to forgive others the way God has forgiven us. In **Matthew 18**, Jesus tells the story about an unforgiving servant. This servant owed his master \$1 million. Of course, he couldn't pay it, so the master ordered him to be thrown into prison. The servant begged for forgiveness and the master forgave his huge debt.

When the servant left, he ran into a fellow-servant who owed him \$15 and demanded he pay up. Even though he begged for forgiveness, the first servant had him thrown in prison.

When the master found out about the unforgiving servant, he had him thrown in prison until he could repay his debt, which of course would be forever, since he could never get that kind of money.

God has forgiven us a huge debt of sin, a debt we could never pay back, through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ. Because of this, we can forgive those who hurt us for the small debt they owe us.

Prayer:

Lord, help us to forgive others as You have forgiven us. Amen.