

Weaving the Word

Forgive Us Our Debts

Part 39 – July 26, 2015



Welcome to where we're learning to count the cost to follow the One who paid the price. We left off discussing our daily bread, which, like manna, becomes infested if we hoard our *abundance*.

Today we're discussing "our debts".



In Jesus' revolutionary, pray-pause-personalize, model conversation with our Father, He directs us to open up with **THY** name, **THY** kingdom, and **THY** will. And, once our priorities are reestablished, we're properly prepared to ask our Father to: give **US**, forgive **US**, lead **US**, and deliver **US**. (Mat 6:9-13)

How many of you have paid off a mortgage?



Did you celebrate? **"We're free-and-clear! Full ownership!"**

Mortgage-burning celebrations are fairly common; *because, a weight is lifted when a debt is paid.*

I know, because we paid off *our* house about 15 years ago. *"Debt free, baby!"* That is, until we started *remodeling* a couple years ago.

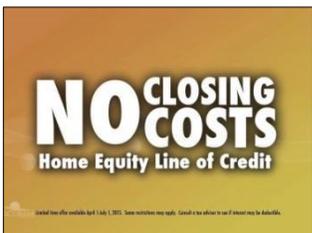


HELOC: Home Equity Line of Credit. So easy. So *sneaky*. You get a checkbook; and, **you can spend against the value of what's already been paid, decreasing what you own while increasing what you owe.**



Interesting how Jesus places **"Forgive us our debts"** right after **"Give us this day our daily bread,"** because later **He reveals the Daily Bread that forgives our debts.**

"I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna [i.e. their "daily bread"] in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die." – John 6:48-50 NIV



Why?

Whenever we sin, we borrow against life to purchase death without any possible way to repay, decreasing what we own while increasing what we owe, until we're fully enslaved and buried in debt.



We come here to celebrate that *He came here to pay to lift the weight of sin and death. "We're free-and-clear! And, fully alive!"*

When you were dead in your transgressions ... He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt ... having nailed it to the cross. – Colossians 2:13-14 NAS



Forget *HELOC* – HE *un'LOCKed* us!

So, *how and why does our sin lock us into debt?*

Because of what we're born inherently owing our Father.

By re-centering us on "Thy name", "Thy kingdom", and "Thy will", Jesus is reminding us that **we owe God total, tireless devotion.**

[As He told the Lawyer] "Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your strength and with **all** your mind ..." - Luke 10:27a NIV

Why?

He made you! He gave us life, and we exchanged it for death. And, He made you alive again!

And, He alone fully knows you and truly loves you.

He gave everything. We gave nothing. So, we owe everything. He owes nothing.

Yet, even while we were debtors, He died for us! So, we owe an eternal, joyful debt of gratitude. We owe absolute appreciation and unadulterated love, in all ways at all times.

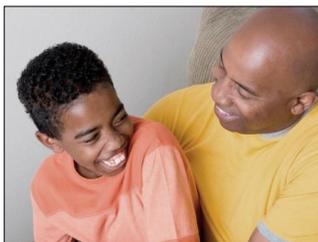
Sin is the failure to fulfill our rightful obligation.



So, what do we do about the daily debts we rack up *after* we've been set free, debt free? Thankfully, **our daily failures don't affect our salvation or our standing as God's children.**

Defiance breaks fellowship, not relationship.

So, *when I'm defiant, He's still my Dad. Just, sad.* Like any truly loving Father, **He's grieved by any loss of intimacy with His children.**



Disobedience disrupts our harmony, our closeness, and my being led and blessed by Him. However ...

Daily confession restores broken communion.



And, **if you're a genuine child of God, you can't sin against Him without suffering some inner guilt and shame. And, *that's good.***

Guilt is like a warning light. Picture a pilot trying to ignore a warning signal: disregarding it, rationalizing it, running from it, or just drinking it away. **With guilt, the *only fix is forgiveness.***

The weight only lifts if we live *debt free.*



Guilt is also like garbage. It quickly piles up. Ever forget garbage day? You have to wait a whole week; and the cans are full of the *old garbage*, and it stinks, and you have to stuff in the *new garbage*. **Isn't it nice when garbage day rolls around again?**

Same with sin. **The can is our heart, and *every day is garbage day!***

Just as we need our daily bread, we also need daily confession.

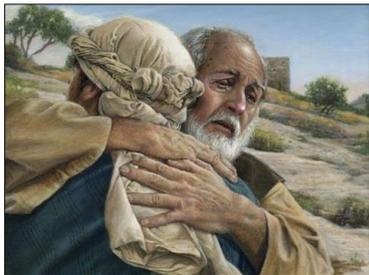
This is how we personalize this part of the Lord's Prayer Guide.



But, ever struggle with *not feeling forgiven?*

We'll close with four amazing truths to cling to:

1. God forgives our daily debts: INSTANTLY



Remember when the Prodigal Son returns to his father, ashamed and stinking like *pig*?

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'" - Luke 15:20-21 NIV

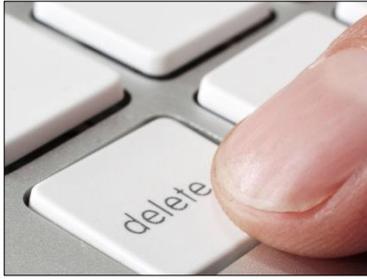
The father opened his arms *before* the son even opened his mouth!

Because, **He's more willing to forgive than we are to ask! Our salvation debt is a paid in full the moment we receive it. And, our relational debts are forgotten the moment we confess 'em.**

2. *Because ...* God forgives our daily debts: COMPLETELY

If you don't hold onto this, you'll be tempted to see the hardships you face as kind of God's way of *getting even*. But, we have His promise:

I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. - Jeremiah 31:34 NIV



He chooses to permanently delete any sin that's been cleansed. Not the consequences (we need those), but the condemnation.

And if God deletes it, *no I.T.* can recover it! If you get to Heaven and say, "About my sin ..." He'll reply, "*Sin?* I distinctly remember forgetting that." How can this be?



Well, think about it: **how long do you remember a debt that's been paid?** Electric bill. Water bill. *Whatever.* How much was your June water bill ... *last year?* **Once they're paid, you put 'em out of your mind?** You know why? *They're paid!*

"But I come back so often with the same struggle." Yes, well ...

3. God forgives our daily debts: REPEATEDLY

He never tires of cleansing dirty kids – not because He's indifferent or undisturbed, but because He's determined to have an eternal family, and specifically to have you in it!

He knows the score – your "credit score", *that is!*

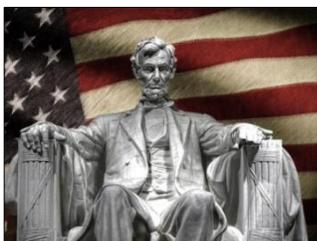
By one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. **[i.e. those who continue to mess up!]** - Hebrews 10:14 NIV

And, because we borrow against life with no way to repay ...

4. God forgives our daily debts: FREELY

"C'mon. There's no such thing as a free lunch. Somebody always has to pay." Too true.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. – Romans 3:23-24 NIV



"Justified freely". No bargaining allowed. No begging accepted. Both are offensive distortions of our loving Father. Part of the process of making us holy, is the forgiveness of our confessed sins, instantly, completely, repeatedly, and *freely.*

Forgiveness is like the Lincoln Memorial: 1) **It's not for sale.** 2) **If it was, you couldn't afford it.** And, 3) **If you're an American it's already yours.** *It comes with the package!*



Same with *forgiveness:* **if you're a believer with Christ on the throne, it's already yours.** *It comes with the package!*

All that's needed is confession and appreciation and love.