

**SERMON NOTES: April 3, 2010/ David Renwick**  
**“Forgive us Our Debts”**

Sermon Series –

Jesus’ Sermon on Mount (Matt 5,6,7); Prayer (Matt 6)

**Lord’s Prayer**

First half: Focus on God, not requests for ourselves

Who God is to us/who we are to God

Father (parent) in Heaven (Awesome Creator)

May YOUR (1)name, (2)kingdom, (3)will be central to us

Last week: First request to do with us

**Daily Bread** . . . not luxury but need to complete our journey for God

. . . not just physical but spiritual

. . . not just MY bread, but OUR bread in a hungry world

This week: Second Request for us (=5<sup>th</sup> petition)

**Forgiveness = Healing of broken relationships**

for us from God (forgive us our debts)

from us for others (as we forgive our debtors)

**Not easy – but essential to our happiness**

Rose Foti, Diane Horning, Lynn McGuire 9/11

Bitterness – death + debris moved to dump . .

Even when we know it is for our happiness – not easy

**But this is our CALL**

**a. Jesus’ example**

On the Cross: Father forgive them

How? Trusting to God’s Justice . . . 1 Peter 2:22

**b. God’s Forgiveness of Us**

Constant, though we often don’t see how serious our need is . .

**We** focus on outward trespasses (breaking the Law)

**Jesus** focuses on inward trespasses (Matt 5)

and on debts (what we owe; what we never get around to)

. . praise, thanks, study, love of neighbor and enemy

. . the letter we never wrote, the smile we never gave

God has every right to say “it’s not right that I let them off the hook”

But God drops the charges . . nails them to the cross (Colossians 2:13-14)

And forgives . . again and again . .

**c. Not so we can go our own merry way**

but so we can restore/heal our relationship with God and others

*“If you do not forgive, neither will God forgive you” (6:14-15)*

Not a ‘demand’ but ‘proof’ that we know we’ve been

forgiven