



WHEN WE PRAY

Read: Luke 11:1-4

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” 2 And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom Come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread, **4 and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.** And lead us not into temptation.”

Getting Started:

- What is one area where you see prayer changing your heart?
- How are your prayers reflecting the Lord’s Prayer?

Digging Deeper:

On Sunday, Peter talked about liturgies - practices, rituals or routines. He quoted James Smith, “Something that you do, that do something to you. What makes a liturgy religious, not that they plant ideas in our heads, but that they are inscribing a desire in our hearts for an end.” For example, maybe your end goal is to be a marathon runner...so you have this physical liturgy of running every day and training. Or maybe your end goal is to locate the best coffee shop in town, so you go to a different shop every weekend.

- What daily or weekly routines do you currently have that shape your desires and actions?
- How do these routines influence your thoughts, emotions, and behaviors?
- How do your current liturgies affect your heart and spiritual well-being?

- What specific practices could you incorporate into your life to help you live and love more like Jesus?
- How can you make the Lord's Prayer a more integral part of your daily routine?

James 4:17 says plainly;” So, whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”

Peter began our “Lord’s Prayer” series with the **fifth P – Pardon, “and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.”**

- Are there any new rituals or habits you could adopt that would foster forgiveness, compassion, and humility in your life?

What does it feel like to be forgiven:

- How does acknowledging your own need for forgiveness impact your relationship with God and others?
- In what ways have you experienced the transformative power of forgiveness in your own life?
- Did being forgiven change your perception of yourself? How?
- How did being forgiven influence your future actions or decisions?

What does it feel like to forgive others:

- How has holding onto resentment affected your life?
- Are there people in your life whom you need to forgive? What steps can you take to offer that forgiveness? Who can hold you accountable?
- How does forgiving others help you understand and appreciate the forgiveness you receive from God?
- In what ways can forgiveness transform your interactions and build stronger, more compassionate connections?

Personal Reflection:

Jesus’ teaching on forgiveness in Matthew 18, the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, underscores the necessity of forgiving others as we have been forgiven. Jesus tells us to settle any grievances before worshiping, emphasizing the transformative power of engaging deeply with the Lord’s Prayer daily.

- What does the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant teach us about the importance of forgiving others?
- How does this parable illustrate the consequences of withholding forgiveness?