

COR@9-April 23, 2017
Forgive Us our Trespases

- I. Introduction: That one French period piece set during the post-Napoleonic era about the unjustly imprisoned ex-convict who became rich using a pseudonym and attempts to correct the injustice inflicted upon his family.

- II. Forgiveness is a difficult topic for us

- a. Denial - I'm not really that bad.
- b. Disbelief - Can God really forgive a sinner like me?
- c. Bitterness - I could never forgive them, they hurt me too much
- d. Requires instead vulnerability and dependence



- III. Forgive us our _____

- a. Trespases (Matthew 6:14; CF Tyndale's English of Matthew 6:12-14)
- b. Debts (Matthew 6:12)
- c. Sins (Luke 11:4)

- IV. **Small Group Discussion: What are the biblical consequences of sin, both vertical and horizontal that we need to be forgiven and relieved from? How have you seen these play out in your own life?**

- V. The Terrible petition: "As we forgive those who trespass against us"

- a. Forgiving others is the **cause** of our forgiveness from God
- b. Forgiving others is a **model** of our forgiveness from God
- c. Forgiving others is the **proof** of our forgiveness from God
- d. Forgiving others is the **extent** of our forgiveness from God
- e. Forgiving others is the **condition** of our forgiveness from God



- VI. **Large group Discussion:** Why do we find it difficult to forgive others?

- VII. Implications

- a. Universality of sin and need for forgiveness
- b. Persistence of sin with ongoing forgiveness
- c. Collective personal sins and cooperate sins in the "our"
- d. Literal economic forgiveness of debts as an outworking
- e. The contextually centrality of Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 1:21; 26:28)

"Be yourself your own judge; give yourself the sentence of acquittal. Do you want your debts to be forgiven by God? Forgive them yourself and God will ratify it. For your judgement of your neighbor, which is in your own power, whatever it may be, will call forth the corresponding judgement upon you."

-Gregory of Nyssa, *Sermons on the Lord's Prayer* 5