

Treasure Hunt

- How does the behavior of the early church reflect the corporate nature of v. 11?
- What should be included in our prayer for “bread”?
- What are the two classes of sin, and which kind is in focus in the prayer?
- In the light of Col 2:13, why would believers need to pray to be forgiven? What other verse besides Matt 6:12 shows the ongoing need for forgiveness?
- Why should the church pray together for forgiveness?
- How would you reconcile the order of 6:12 (God forgives us as we have forgiven others) with that of Eph 4:32 (we forgive others as God has forgiven us)?

Structure of the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer, Matt 6:9-13

Opening description of God
Our Father, which art in heaven

Petitions for God's Glory

Hallowed be thy name
10 Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done

In earth, as it is in heaven

Petitions for Our Needs

11 Give us this day our daily bread
12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive
our debtors
13 And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

Closing description of God
13c For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory, forever.

Our daily bread

Early days in Jerusalem:

Act 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Act 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

Help from Antioch:

Act 11:27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. 28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: 30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Paul's mission:

2 Corinthians 8, 9

Rom 15:25 But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. 26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

God's Word as food:

Our daily bread

Mat 4:4 It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the **words of his mouth more than my necessary food.**

Psa 19:10 More to be desired are **they** [God's judgments] than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than **honey and the honeycomb.**

Psa 119:103 How sweet are **thy words** unto my taste! yea, sweeter than **honey** to my mouth!

Jer 15:16 **Thy words were found, and I did eat them;** and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

1Pe 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the **sincere milk of the word**, that ye may grow thereby:

A sobering warning from Amos:

- Impatience with spiritual disciplines ...

Amo 8:4 Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, 5 Saying, **When will the new moon be gone**, that we may sell corn? **and the sabbath**, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?

- ...leads to a famine of the Word of God

Amo 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send **a famine** in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but **of hearing the words** of the LORD: 12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find *it*.

The Lord's Table? Acts 20:7 And upon the first **day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread,

Forgive us our debts...

Two kinds of sin, Rom 7:19

For the good that I would I do not:	Sin of Omission	Debt	} Sin αμαρτια “miss the mark”
but the evil which I would not, that I do.	Sin of Commission	Transgression, Trespass	

How should we pray?

- Mathew 6:12 (prayer): Forgive us our **debts**, as we forgive our **debtors**

Mat 6:14-15 (explanation): For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their **trespasses**, neither will your Father forgive your **trespasses**.

- Luk 11:4 (prayer) And forgive us our **sins**; for we also forgive every one that is **indebted** to us

“Forgive us our trespasses” is from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, influenced by the Catholic version, which imports the explanation (Matt 6:15) into the prayer.

Forgive us our debts (2)

Which kind of sin is harder to avoid?

- Commission: just list all the sins and avoid them
- Omission: open-ended, and the more we mature, the more we realize we owe the Lord.

Jam 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

Forgive us our debts ...

Q: Aren't we already forgiven, when we receive the Lord?

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

A: John writes (in his first epistle) to saved people:

1Jo 4:4 Ye are of God, little children,

1Jo 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life

Yet he teaches them that they are still liable to sin, and need to seek forgiveness for it:

1Jo 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ... 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Lord's teaching in the Upper Room:

Joh 13:10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

Forgive us our debts ... (OT)

Achan, an OT sinner:

Jos 7:11 **Israel hath sinned**, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put *it* even among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, *but* turned *their* backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Ezra:

Ezr 9:6 O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for **our iniquities** are increased over *our* head, and **our trespass** is grown up unto the heavens.

Daniel:

Dan 9:5 **We have sinned**, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

Nehemiah:

Neh 1:7 **We** have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

Contrast the Pharisee:

Luke 18:11 God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men [are], extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Forgive us our debts ... (NT)

A prayer:

Act 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

The delayed answer:

Act 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; ... Act 5:16 There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

In between: the sin of Ananias and Sapphira.

Paul to Corinth:

1 Cor 5:13 put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

1 Cor 11:29 discerning διακρινω the Lord's body

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge διακρινω ourselves, we should not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world....