** WBC SERMON NOTES 25 August 2019**

**Matthew 6:12 “Total Forgiveness”  
 Series: The Lord’s Prayer (8)**

**Prayer that turns the world upside down**

INTRODUCTION  
One of mankind’s greatest needs is to experience TOTAL FORGIVENESS.

Unforgiveness can ………………………… your peace and joy.

“*Father forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*”  
*“Forgive our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.”*

How can we pray this prayer and remain …………………………………?

Jesus adds a “PS”, just in case we have missed the point – Matthew 6:14-15

***14For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.***

Here Jesus gives us an EXPLICIT prayer for ……………………………..:-  
 “*forgive our sins*”, and also an IMPLICIT prayer for a ……………………………….  
……………………. :– “as we forgive our debtors”

**1.. THE BROAD APPEAL**

Augustine called this request “………… ………………………… …………………….’’, because if we pray this petition without a forgiving …………………. AND a forgiving ………… we are actually asking God not to ……………………. us at all.

This request is actually a plea & a declaration: a plea that God will …………….  
US, and, a declaration that we ………….. forgiven others, or promise to do so.  
(Luke 11:4 is in the present tense: we ARE forgiving people)

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In answer to the disciple’s question Jesus replied, “I tell you, forgive not 7  
 times, but 77 times” – raises the issue that we need to have a  
…………………………….. ………………….

John Wesley’s statement to General Oglethorpe about an unforgiving spirit:  
“*Then Sir, I hope you never ……………….. !*

The Parable of the unmerciful servant (Matt. 18:32-35)

...………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..…………………

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CS Lewis: “No part of Jesus teaching is clearer: and there are no exceptions to it. He doesn’t say we are to forgive other people’s sins provided they are not too frightful, or provided there are extenuating circumstances, or anything of that sort.

If I refuse to forgive, I am outside of God’s grace and have not understood my own forgiveness.

Jeremiah 31:34 , “I will forgive their wickedness and I will remember (not hold against you) your sins no more.

**What this petition for total forgiveness is not:**

1. It is not ……………………. or …………………………. what others do
2. It is not ………………………………….. what others do.
3. Forgiveness does not necessarily imply …………………………………….
4. Total forgiveness does not imply …………………………….
5. Forgiveness does not mean …………………………. we are not ……………...
6. Forgiveness doesn’t mean ‘not taking the wrong …………………………….’ or ‘…………………………….. to what has happened’.

**2. A BASIC ASSUMPTION**

**Two assumptions:**

1. **We all need ………………………………….**
2. **People have ……………………. us and ………………………. against us.**  
   We all have a story to tell.
3. **A BINDING APPLICATION**
4. **This prayer keeps us from becoming ……………………………………………..**1 John 1:*8 ‘If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves,   
    and the truth is not in us.*
5. **This prayer keeps us in ……………………………….. with God.**“*But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light,  
    we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Christ   
   purifies us from all sin.”* --1 John 1:7*“Our sins are a dividing wall, which prevents God from coming close,   
   and like a cloud, which stops him from seeing us.” -- Calvin*“*You have covered yourself with a cloud, so that no prayer can get through.”* -- Lamentations 3:44*“Husbands, … live with your wives in an understanding way…  
    … so that your prayers may not be hindered.” --1 Peter 3:7*

1. **This request calls us to forgive and seek ……………………………… when  
   possible.**

**PERSONAL REFLECTION**

John 10:10 and Matthew 11:28-30

What is the Lord saying to me now? What must I do?