



And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:12

Best. Prayer. Ever. – Forgive us our sins

When I was in my early 20's, my roommate owed me 90 bucks. I did all I could to remind him about his debt. I spoke to him face to face. I called him. I texted him. I left notes around the house. For some reason, he didn't pay me before I moved back home. I got angry about the situation and held a grudge against him. That grudge hurt our relationship.

Did he owe me? Yes. But that wasn't the issue. The issue was my heart. I wasn't willing to forgive his debt. I held onto his debt and that created anger in my heart towards him.

Jesus tells us, "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). Jesus uses the term "debts" as another term for sin. You and I owe God. When we sin against God, it's like we keep racking up a huge debt that can't possibly be repaid.

But, look at what God did about our debt to him: 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 says, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."

God restored our relationship with him through his Son. God canceled our debt to him. He doesn't hold our sins against us. Through Christ, you and I don't owe God anymore! Christ paid the debt through his perfect life and innocent death on the cross. Not only that, but God decided in his grace and love to make us his children and his heirs. Not only don't we owe him anymore, but we also get to have all that's his!

So, when it's hard to forgive the sins that others have committed against you—especially the sins that have caused you a lot of pain and trouble—just think back to God, who treated you with mercy and love and canceled your debt. It's not as hard to forgive others when we realize how much we've been forgiven.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you paid the debt I owed. You paid all that I owed to God because of my sin. How deep is your love and how great is your forgiveness for me. Help me to show the same mercy and give the same forgiveness to those who owe me. Amen.