

# The Fifth Petition



## Opening Prayer

Father, dear Father, how it pains me to say, "Forgive me my sins!" For even though you richly grant all the earlier petitions and thus have removed any and every possible excuse that I might have for sinning, nevertheless I have sinned; for a sinner is what I am, and I have not been slow to prove it in thoughts, words, and deeds. But still, Father, dear Father, your Son knowing full well that I would never be perfect this side of the grave, has bid me call to you for full and free pardon for the sins I know and the sins I do not know. Give me the favor that he alone has deserved; give me what he has promised; give me what his cross alone has merited for me. Amen.

## Introduction

If we ask someone to wash our clothes or to help us with our homework, that implies that we have clothes that need to be washed and homework that needs help. We wouldn't ask for those things if we didn't have clothes or homework. We also wouldn't ask for our sins to be forgiven if we didn't have sins. Jesus would not have taught us to include such a request in our daily prayers if he didn't know that every day we would have sins that need to be forgiven.

**Lesson Aim: What are we asking God to do when we pray the Fifth Petition?**

## Part One

Read Matthew 16:21-23.

On both occasions when Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer, the disciples were present. So, Peter had probably heard Jesus teach this prayer at least twice, and had probably been praying the Lord's Prayer for years by the time Jesus says these words to him in Matthew 16.

- 1) What does Peter not want to have to happen to Jesus?
- 2) Why had Jesus been teaching that he must be killed? What was the reason or the cause for Jesus to need to be killed?
- 3) What did Peter not understand about the forgiveness for which he had been praying?

What Jesus had to do was not easy, but it was right, and it was loving. When Peter tried to discourage Jesus from going through with it, Jesus would have nothing of it. Jesus' only concern was forgiving you.

Read Psalm 51.

David wrote this Psalm in response to the rebuking he received over the sin he committed with Bathsheba. For a better understanding of the context refer to 2 Samuel chapters 11-12.

- 4) How did David respond to the knowledge of his sin?
- 5) As David mentions in verse 6, God demands that we remain faithful to him and sinless at all times. Yet, considering what David says in verse 5, what is actually the case?

6) How does David ask God to treat him? What does he ask God to do with his sin?

**KEY POINT 1** - Aware of what our sins have cost our God, we ask that he would graciously cancel the debt of all our sins and hear our prayers.

**What I've learned so far:**

## Part Two

Read Matthew 18:21-35.

- 1) Peter came to Jesus thinking that he was being pretty generous by offering to forgive someone seven times. But how many times did Jesus say he should forgive someone?
- 2) When Jesus said to forgive someone seventy-seven times, he was saying that we should be ready to forgive without limit. How do you think Peter felt then?
- 3) How much did the first man owe the master?
- 4) What did the master do to that man?
- 5) How much did the fellow servant owe that man?
- 6) How did that man treat his fellow servant?



In Jesus' parable, the master represents God. The servant represents us and how we treat each other. If you had been sitting here for an hour making a list of tally marks, one for each of your sins, evil things you've done but you wish you hadn't, how long would that list be? And yet, is there someone you're mad at, against whom you hold a grudge? Your Father was willing to take that list of your sins and throw it into the fire you deserve, but you won't forgive someone you're mad at? It can be pretty hard when they aren't even sorry about it. Now, don't treat your Father that way. We've already learned that the best thing to do isn't always easy. Repent and believe the good news of your forgiveness. Let every time you forgive someone for anything be a reminder of the promise God has made to you. That is sure hope, comfort, and forgiveness.

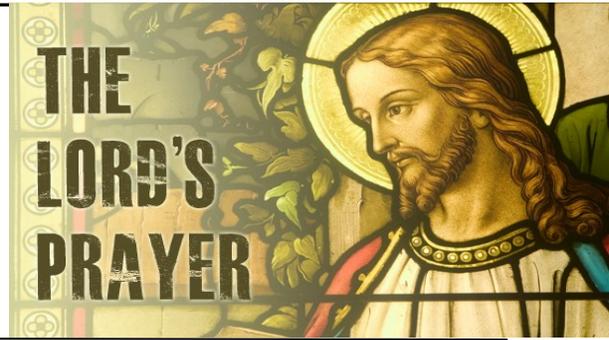
Read Matthew 5:38-45

The rule that is referred to in these verse is known as Hammurabi's Code. "Eye for an eye" and "tooth for a tooth" is not biblical. Though the Bible refers to that rule here, it does not teach us to live by it.

- 7) If someone hits you on the right cheek , what does Jesus say you should do?
- 8) How does Jesus say you should treat your enemies?
- 9) The Bible doesn't teach Hammurabi's Code. What does the Bible teach?



**Main point** – In this petition, we ask God to graciously cancel our sins and to lead us to forgive and do good to other people.



### Final Considerations:

1) In the Fifth Petition we confess

- A. Our faith in God, particularly in God's love.
- B. Our worthiness to receive forgiveness, since we promise to forgive others.
- C. That we are guilty of many sins, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.

2) The word "sin" means "to miss the mark." It's an archery term used for every time one would fail to hit the bull's-eye. Traditionally we use the word "trespasses" in place of "debts" simply because "trespasses" was the traditional translation for "sins." Sins were understood as trespassing outside the bounds of the bull's-eye. While in the two accounts of the Lord's Prayer, Luke uses the word "sins" (to miss the mark), Matthew uses the word "debts" (moral debts, sins). We understand that the petition addresses people who have sinned, not borrowers of money. Still, different terms convey different meanings. What personal reflections does referring to sins (missing the mark) as "trespasses" or "debts" cause for you?

3) Agree or Disagree: The main blessing that we receive through the forgiveness of sins is that we don't have to worry or be concerned when we do wrong.



4) Write your expounded version of the Fifth Petition.

### **Commit to Memory:**

- Romans 5:8
- The Fifth Petition (with *What Does This Mean?*)

**What I've learned about the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer and about our sins and forgiveness:**