

Teach Us to Pray: Forgive Us Our Sins

As preached on Sunday, September 27th

Read: Luke 11:1-3

1. As you begin to consider this week's petition "forgive us our sins", take a few minutes to remember a time when you have been radically forgiven by someone. Who was it that forgave you? What did you do which required their forgiveness?
2. How has your experience of human forgiveness affected your understanding of the forgiveness that God offers to you through Jesus?
3. The biblical picture of sin is one of accumulated debt owed to a creditor. Is it possible for us to pay back what we owe? Are there portions of your "debt" to God that feel as if they're beyond his forgiveness? Why? Why not?
4. If our salvation is secure once we place our faith in Jesus, why is it important to confess our sins to God on a regular basis? What purpose does this practice serve?
5. Take a few minutes now to remember a time when you were called upon to offer radical forgiveness to another. What had they done to you? Were you able to forgive them?
6. Read Matthew 18:21-35. The main character in this parable is the recipient of incredible mercy, being forgiven a tremendous debt. However, he is unable to show even a shred of mercy to another who owes him a fraction of that debt. What does this tell us about the main character? Do you think that he truly received forgiveness? Why? Why not?
7. We do not earn God's forgiveness by forgiving others, yet we've been called to forgive others because God first forgave us (see Colossians 3:13 & Ephesians 4:7-21). How can you more fully allow God's forgiveness to flow through you and into the lives of people around you?