

“COURAGEOUS FAITH: PRAYING THE LORD’S PRAYER”
“Forgive us”

We are in a sermon series “Courageous Faith: Praying the Lord’s Prayer.” The prayer that Jesus taught is one of the ways we grow as disciples, leaning into God’s grace and trusting God’s love for us. The next two weeks we will look at the section on forgiveness. This week we will focus on our need for forgiveness. Depending on which denomination you grew up, you may use either the word “debts” or “trespasses.” The ecumenical version changes that to “sins.” Each word is descriptive in its own way. “Forgive us our trespasses” reminds us we do trespass. We walk and talk about people’s lives with little regards as to how that might affect them. “Forgive us our debts” adds another dimension. We are debtors to grace, to love and to the mercy God offers us. We tend to use things not realizing that all is a gift and each of us are stewards. Finally, “Forgive us our sins” reminds us that we often fail, we hurt, harm and otherwise do things that are destructive. We sin, in large and small ways. May the Lord’s Prayer this week give us Courageous Faith to ask for forgiveness and trust God’s grace and mercy.
---Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Forgive us”**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours. Now and forever. Amen.
(New English version, adopted by the Church of England 1977)

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, February 4, 2019 Luke 7: 36-39

This is in my opinion one of the most beautiful stories of Jesus of his grace and mercy. Jesus had been invited to dinner, a dinner with some very important religious leaders. Jesus has been invited to dinner, at a “Pharisees” house. This woman enters uninvited and pours expensive anointment and cries as she bathes Jesus feet. The men (religious men) are horrified. Women didn’t belong at the table and particularly not this woman. She was a “known sinner.” What is that anyway? Simon, (the religious leader in whose home they were meeting) was offended. In these verses there is both the judger and judged. In the Lord’s prayer we ask for forgiveness. In these verses no one has asked for forgiveness, but behavior points to who wants and needs forgiveness. *How do you identify when you need forgiveness? Pray the Lord’s Prayer as a way of living into the forgiveness God offers.*

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 Luke 7: 40-43

Jesus directly confronts what is in front of him: a judging religious authority and a penitential woman seeking forgiveness. Rather than just calling out Simon, Jesus tells him a story, a pointed story. Who seeks forgiveness and who is more grateful? The one who is forgiven the most. The question often for people who are spiritual is how often do we judge people not like us or who do not live out a faith similar to ours? *Have you been judged by others whether fairly or not? What did that feel like? In this part of the story are you more like Simon or the woman? Today, pray over this story of Jesus. Then pray the Lord's Prayer asking for forgiveness and for insight.*

Wednesday, February 6, 2019 Psalm 103: 8-10

The psalmist begins verse 1 with praise, "Bless the Lord, O my soul" and then in the next few verses speaks of God's mercy, care and love. In verse 8, he claims God's mercy, grace and steadfast love. The psalmist also speaks of God's anger, but that God is "slow to anger." In some churches one hears a great deal about God's anger and wrath, but mostly people expect kindness, compassion, love and grace from God. Why would the psalmist note that God is "slow to anger?" The psalmist knew, that personally and as a people, Israel sinned. They broke God's law, and turned from God's way. Yet, God was slow to anger, instead choosing to offer mercy grace and steadfast love. "God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities." What does the psalmist mean? What would it look like if God had dwelt with God's people in the psalmist's mind? Part of the deliberation around the exile was the people trying to reconcile that experience with God's anger and judgement. Often when bad things happen, Christians ask, "what have I done to deserve this? What have I done for this to occur?" Asking forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer or any prayer is acknowledging how we sin, what we do wrong, what we don't do or say that we should do or say. The psalmist is saying, basically, people do not get what they deserve because of God's love and grace. *Can you think of things you have said or done that cause real pain, for which you need forgiveness? Pray the Lord's Prayer and know that God loves you and forgives you.*

Thursday, February 7, 2019 Psalm 103:11-13

The psalmist uses beautiful imagery to describe forgiveness. God's love is higher than the heavens and as far as the east is from the west is how far God removes our sins from us. Using the image of a human parent, father, the compassion and love a parent has for his or her child, so does God! The imagery is loving, kind and inviting. The psalmist wants to assure the singers speaks of these words that God is indeed loving, gracious and kind. When a person has wronged another, he or she may seek forgiveness. In the words of an old prayer of confession, "Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.. We have not done your will...we have rebelled against your love." Acknowledging each person's need for God, the psalmist is ever ready to remind each one of God's gracious and steadfast love. *In what ways have you not done God's will and in what ways have you rebelled against God's love? Re read these words as God's love washes over you and forgives you. Pray the Lord's Prayer as a reminder that God is merciful.*

Friday, February 8, 2019 Luke 7:44-50

Jesus makes his point. It isn't just about forgiveness here, it is that Simon was rude. He didn't offer the normal courtesies offered a guest in a home; no water to wash his feet, no kiss and not welcomed really. Instead this woman poured out a welcome, love and faith. The contrast is stunning. When Jesus offers her forgiveness those around the table cannot quite understand it. On Sunday, we will focus on the second line about forgiveness: "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." It isn't just that we are forgiven, we are called to forgive. *Pray today not only that you are forgiven in God's grace, but that God will help you learn how to forgive.*