

PRAISE—PRIORITIES-- PROVISION-- PROBLEMS -- PROTECTION

Problems: Matthew 6:12 "And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

This petition has to do with our relationships, both with God and with others.

Day 1: Forgive us our sins. What is sin? (Suppose you're talking to someone who doesn't know the Gospel and does not understand what sin is).

When my attitude towards sin is small then my need for Jesus is small and the cross is insignificant. What do these Scriptures tell us about how we need to view sin? How does sin affect our relationship with God?

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Ps. 130:3,4

Isaiah 53:5,6

Day 2: Right after Jesus teaches the disciples about prayer, He returns to the topic of forgiveness. Read Matthew 6:14, 15, and Mark 11:24,25. Jesus says our relationship with others affects our relationship with God. How?

"If anyone insists on his own goodness and despises others . . . let him look into himself when this petition confronts him. He will find he is no better than others and that in the presence of God everyone must duck his head and come into the joy of forgiveness only through the low door of humility." Luther

Day 3: Describe what God's forgiveness looks like from these Scriptures.

Micah 7:18,19

Isaiah 38:17

Isaiah 43:25

Acts 3:19

How are we supposed to forgive others? Col. 3:12, 13

Day 4: Read Matthew 22:36-40 How does this describe the relationship God wants with us? And with others?

Jesus called these the two greatest commandments. Why?

Notice how this Scripture applies to prayer for forgiveness: (By Jerry Bridges, Respectable Sins, pg. 37)

"Since the gospel is only for sinners, I begin each day with the realization that despite my being a saint, I still sin every day in thought, word, deed, and motive. If I am aware of any subtle or not so subtle sins in my life, I acknowledge those to God. Even if my conscience is not indicting me for conscious sins, I still acknowledge to God that I have not even come close to loving Him with all my being or loving my neighbor as myself. I repent of those sins, and then I apply specific Scriptures that assure me of God's forgiveness. I then, generalize the Scripture for promises of God's forgiveness to all my life and say to God words to the effect that my only hope of right standing with Him that day is Jesus' blood shed for my sins, and His righteous life lived on my behalf."

Day 5. Agree? What did you hear from God thru these Scriptures?

Apply? What will you do to apply this?