

# WHAT DOES REAL FORGIVENESS LOOK LIKE?

## Brief Lenten series on Forgiveness - #1 3/9/08

Text: Matthew 6:7-15

*“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup>Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. <sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread,<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. <sup>14</sup>For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup>but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (ESV)*

### WHAT FORGIVENESS IS?

A definition of forgiveness = Forgiveness is, “When we strive against all thoughts of revenge; when we will not do our enemies mischief, but wish well to them, grieve at their calamities, pray for them, seek reconciliation with them, and show ourselves ready on all occasions to relieve them” (Thomas Watson, *Body of Divinity*, p. 581).

Biblical cross references supporting this definition: Romans 12:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; Luke 6:28; Proverbs 24:17; Matthew 5:44; Romans 12:18; and Exodus 23:4...

### WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

**1.** Forgiveness is *NOT* the \_\_\_\_\_  
at sin.

**2.** Forgiveness is *NOT* the absence of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ for sin.

### A LOOK AT THE BIBLE –

Hebrews 8:12 it says, *“I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”* Then in Hebrews 12:6, 10 it says, *“the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.”... Our [earthly] fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.”*

2 Samuel 12:9ff (David & Nathan the prophet)

Numbers 14 (Joshua and Caleb tell the people of Israel that they can indeed go up and possess the Promise land. The people are angry and want to stone them and go back to Egypt. God intervenes....Moses pleads...)

Psalms 99:8: *“O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.”*

**3.** Forgiveness is *not* the same for one who is unrepentant (vs. one who is repentant)