

## MATTHEW 6:12-34

A. Matthew 6:12, 14-15 - And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Matt. 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: Matt. 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

1. If used today in our dispensation of grace (like **most** do), it would be teaching one could get forgiveness by forgiving another's sin against them. If not, one's sins would not be forgiven and they would be held accountable for sin. Using it this way teaches **conditional forgiveness!**
2. Do you see why these verses are completely **impossible** today? Didn't Christ totally, completely, and once for all forgive all our sin **when** we were saved?

\*Today, we forgive others' sins because we have already **been** forgiven by Christ - for Christ's sake.

Colossians 2:13 - And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Ephesians 4:32 - And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

3. Here in Matthew 6, God is speaking to the believing Jews under law. Their faith has **works** added to it.

Note: Matthew 18:21-22, 34-35 - Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Matt. 18:22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Matt. 18:34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. Matt. 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

- a. Christ also is giving Israel a look into national Israel's **past** and **future** indebtedness against God. The parable in Matt. 18:23-35 is a picture of Israel's responsibility in the Tribulation. It has the idea of Israel's **overwhelming** debt to God for rejection of His prophets and the crucifixion of His Son. Their debt is so **enormous** that they would not pay it (like the servant in the parable). To top it off, on the cross Christ forgave them, crying, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do"! Then He **sends** the remnant to go out and proclaim Christ, the message to the nation, and what did the national leaders do? They got mad at the remnant (Little Flock) and **persecuted** them (Acts 5-7), then cast them into prison (Tribulation). Here Christ warns them about this in Matthew 6:35.
- b. **\*\*National** forgiveness is required for national sins, and national sins have national consequences. God judged Israel as a **unit** and the nation had to get it right.

Joshua 7:1, 10-12 - But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel. Josh. 7:10 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Josh. 7:11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put *it* even among their own stuff.

II Chronicles 7:14 - If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

\*[will heal their land] Israel will have a forgiveness that they will see with their eyes.

\*\*In Matthew 6, that is the issue. Our Father which art in heaven, forgive us, bring the kingdom to us.

B. Matthew 6:13 - And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

1. In the coming Tribulation, the remnant will be very strongly tempted to cave in to the pressure to return to Israel's apostate religion. Also, the pressure to yield to Antichrist's system in order to have their needs met (buy and sell - mark) will be strong.

Revelation 3:10 - Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

2. This model of prayer for the disciples has kingdom truths that relate only to Israel and the Little Flock. Verse 13 ends with a well-known Jewish doxology.

I Chronicles 29:11 - Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

C. Matthew 6:16-18 - Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. Matt. 6:17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; Matt. 6:18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

1. The idea is simply that when they would fast, they should do it quietly and not to be admired by men for doing it. There were some who would put their fasting on display for all to see how selfless and spiritual they were (Pharisees and others).
2. In scripture, there is no mandate or requirement to fast. It is a free and voluntary thing. Again, it is about their heart attitude. God looks on the heart! They were to deal with God.

D. Matthew 6:19-21 - Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: Matt. 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: Matt. 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

1. Don't put all your stock in things down here, where somebody can take it away from you. How you live and what you do for the Lord is stored up in heaven, where no one can take it from you.
2. The thing that you love the most is where your affection will be.

\*They are promised that it will be worth it one day when they are rewarded in the kingdom.

Remember:

Matthew 5:12 - Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

I Peter 1:4 - To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Revelation 22:12 - And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

E. Matthew 6:22-23 - The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. Matt. 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

1. The idea is to keep **focused** on the truths of God (light), or you will have a dark future. Jesus says that if their spiritual eyes were godly and their affections toward heavenly treasures, their life would be light.
2. But if their focus was **sin**, only darkness would deceive their vision, view, perception, and understanding.

\*What one sees and focuses on moves one's **body**.

3. [thine eye be single] means to have devotion to **one** purpose - God's way.

\*Paul says to us in Romans 13:12-14 - [The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Rom. 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. Rom. 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts *thereof*.]

F. Matthew 6:24 - No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

1. This will be a real issue for the Jews in the Tribulation. They will be in a position where poverty will be **overtaking** them!

Revelation 13:16-17 - And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: Rev. 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

James 1:26-27, 1 - If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain. James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

\*Why are there fatherless and widows? Tribulation martyrs and **poor** people (Matthew 25:31-46)

2. James 2:14-16 - What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? James 2:15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, James 2:16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit?

- a. In the Tribulation they are to help one another out because of the evil system making them destitute.
- b. \*Matthew 6 is telling them here that they can't serve God **and** material things. Material things won't matter to them when they are on the run from Antichrist's wrath. The only way to win is to **choose** God's treasures in heaven. They were to think about their coming kingdom and live for that.

Note: In the following verses, it tells what would happen to them in Acts 1-7 and in the coming Tribulation.

G. Matthew 6:25-27 - Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Matt. 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Matt. 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

1. Don't worry about what you are going to eat, drink, or wear. Life is **more** than that and God is in charge of that.
2. Haven't you noticed how the birds never plant seed or ever harvest for food. They don't work to produce their food, yet they live and thrive! How? God feeds them and God holds you **higher** than them.
3. Of themselves (verse 27), they cannot **add** any length of time to their age or span of life. So why worry so much about these things?

H. Matthew 6:28-29 - And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: Matt. 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

\*Without **any** toil or work on the flowers' part, they exist. They flourish and are more beautiful than any of Solomon's best apparel.

I. Matthew 6:30-34 - Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? Matt. 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? Matt. 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. Matt. 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matt. 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

1. God is telling them that the Kingdom's program (Tribulation into the kingdom) provisions will be more than enough for them to **make** it.



\*Jesus' point is that living for God will help remove their material worries, because He **honors** those who put Him first and live for Him.

Verse 26 [Are ye not much better than they]

Verse 30 [shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith]

2. Luke 12:31-33 - But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.
  - a. He is telling them, because they are faithful, to not **fear** upcoming events for the kingdom would be theirs. They were to **sell** what they had (will be on the run) and, by doing that, to **help** others. They would have treasures in heaven stored up for them when He brings His kingdom to earth.
  - b. Now we understand why in Acts the Jewish believers **sold** all they had. They were **preparing** for Daniel's Seventieth Week (Tribulation) - and then into the kingdom.

Acts 2:42-45 - And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. Acts 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; Acts 2:45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

Acts 4:31-37 - And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Acts 4:34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, Acts 4:35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. Acts 4:36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Acts 4:37 Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

\*They experienced powers of the world to come (kingdom). They had a **foretaste** of the kingdom in early Acts 1-7.

Hebrews 2:3-5 - How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; Heb. 2:4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? Heb. 2:5 For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.