

Best Prayer Ever!

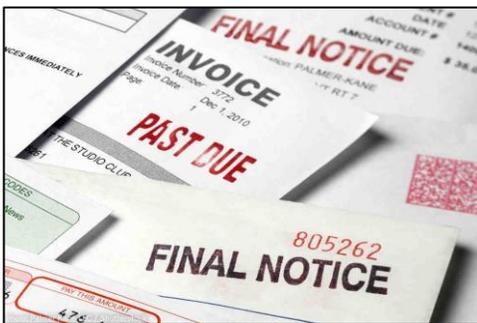
Week 4: Killing Karma

Weekly Summary: We live in a society that loves karma and wants people to get what they deserve. But the 5th Petition is all about *not* giving people what they deserve. We ask God for his mercy, and God gives it. Now he wants that mercy to fill our hearts, too. Forgive, just as God forgives you!

➤ You cannot love both _____ and _____.

❖ **Matthew 6:12** – “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

❖ **Matthew 18:21-25** – Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.”



➤ **The Ugly Truth:** “You _____ God.”

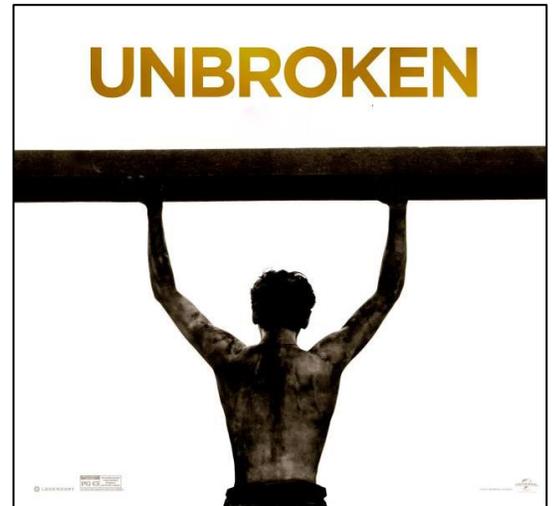
❖ **Matthew 18:26-27** – “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.”

❖ **Colossians 2:13-14** – When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

➤ **The Beautiful Reality:** God says, “You don’t _____ me!”

❖ **Matthew 18:28-35** – “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. ²⁹ His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

➤ What do you do with your canceled debts?
_____!



Digging Deeper

1. Study Ephesians 4:29-32 and Colossians 3:12-14. What do these passages add to our study of the Lord’s Prayer today?
2. Forgiveness is so central to the Christian life that Jesus says, “If you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Why?
3. Agree/Disagree: Refusing to forgive yourself is to claim you have more authority than God.
4. Does knowing Christ’s forgiveness mean that forgiveness will be easy for us? Why, or why not?
5. Agree/Disagree: Forgiving someone also means forgetting what they did to you.
6. How would you respond to someone who says: “If I forgive them, I’m basically saying what they did to me is OK.”
7. Think of someone you are currently “paying back” with your harsh thoughts, hurtful words, or lack of love. What is the Holy Spirit urging you to do/say/think towards that person as you pray this prayer?
8. **Challenge:** This week, forgive someone you’ve been holding a grudge against. If you aren’t able to speak to them personally, say a prayer and ask God to help you let go of their debt.
9. **Homework:** Read Matthew 4:1-11 to prepare for the next message in our series: *Best Prayer Ever!*