

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR Luke 11:1-4
Forgive Us Our Sins as We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us
Sermon of May 18, 2008

1) Many of us have things which are so hard to forgive. As you think about your life, what is one of those difficult things which still stings in your soul? How did you learn to forgive what was done against you?

2) In Luke's version, notice that the word "debts", which is the common way Presbyterians learn the Lord's Prayer, is replaced with "sins." In your mind what is the difference between the two? Further, if you grew up in another tradition you may have learned "trespasses." What is the difference in a trespass and a debt?

3) The first half of this petition in Luke is a request for God to forgive us? How often do we need to pray this part of the prayer? Look up I John 1:8-9. What does that verse mean about sin in our life? Remember that some sin is action oriented, some is thought oriented, some attitude oriented, and some is neglect of something good we should have done. Which of these does your steps more often?

4) Knowing God forgives when we ask, what should be the reaction of the forgiven person (see Psalm 32 for suggestion reaction)? What is your typical reaction to knowing that God forgives us?

5) In light of being forgiven, the second half of this petition links the forgiveness we receive to the forgiveness we offer? Some believe that the two clauses are conditional – that we won't get forgiveness from God until we offer forgiveness to others. Other commentators believe it is consequential – because we receive forgiveness, then forgiveness will flow to others? How do you understand the relationship between the two clauses?

6) I John 4:19-21 has a strong word about forgiveness. What does that section teach? And Colossians 3:12-15 also has a lot to say about forgiveness – how does that passage impact you?

7) What will you take home from this part of the prayer?