



“You Don’t Have to Forgive”  
Jesus DIDN’T Say That! Series  
Pastor Mark  
6.7.20

*“This then is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, **as we also have forgiven our debtors.**” Matthew 6:9-12*

*“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will **not forgive your sins.**” Verse 14*

*“If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First **go and be reconciled to them;** then come and offer your gift.” Matthew 5:23-24*

**FORGIVENESS** is the key that sets you free from the prison of offence.

- *“You have heard it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:43*

What do you do when you’re angry, you’re hurt, you’re bitter?

- You can start by **PRAYING** for the person who offended you.
  - Your prayer for those who hurt you may or may not change them, but it always changes **YOU!**

*“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13*

Holding a grudge doesn’t make you strong, it makes you **BITTER.**

- Forgiving doesn’t make you weak, it sets you **FREE.**

## C3 Group Questions

**Last Week's Next Steps:** Did you gather at C3's online stream on Sunday to express your faith? Did you build your faith this week through consistent time in prayer & God's Word? If so, share what stood out to you in your time with God?

**Ice Breaker:** When you were younger, what did you & your siblings, or friends, fight over the most?

**Review:** What one thing stood out to you (either helpful, insightful or troubling) from the weekend's message?

### **Group Discussion:**

What kind of behavior do you find the most annoying: online or in person?

Are there persons out there that you have possibly hurt? If so, what can you do to make amends so they may be able to forgive you & be set free?

What grudges are you having difficulty letting go?

Why does the thought of forgiving others often provoke an emotional response?

Read Matthew 5:23-24. Why does forgiveness matter so much to God?

How do you forgive something that seems unforgivable?

How can you encourage yourself to pray even when you don't feel like praying?

How can this group pray for me? How can I pray for those in my group?

**This Week's Next Steps:** (*"Do not merely listen to the word.....Do what it says."* James 1:22)

- If you've been holding onto a grudge, spend time in prayer. Ask God to free you from the anger & bitterness you've been a prisoner to & to help you in seeking reconciliation.
- Start praying this prayer: *"Father, thank you for setting the perfect example for me. Thank you for teaching me how to forgive others thru the forgiveness You've offered me. Help me to live at peace & to rejoice in the freedom You've given me. In Jesus' name, amen."*