

## Reflection Questions: Matthew 6:5-13

For the message, "Forgive Us Our Sins" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on April 7, 2019

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These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### **MATTHEW 6:5-13**

**5** "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **6** But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**7** "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. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9** Pray then like this:

**"Our Father in heaven,** hallowed be your name.

**10** Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**11 Give us this day our daily bread,**

**12** and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Do you find it easy or difficult to forgive others? Has that always been the case with you?
2. Read these verses from the book of Romans: "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:8-10).
  - How do these verses help us to understand Jesus use of the language of "debt" as a moral category when it comes to what is owed to one another? How do these verses help us to understand why the failure to love / or to be loved can be painful?
3. Ghandi once said, "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an attribute of the strong." But Jesus seems to be saying that forgiveness is an attribute of the forgiven. "Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors." What is the connection between experiencing the deep forgiveness of our sins by the Father and our extending that same deep forgiveness to others?
4. If Mercy Hill Church is to be a community of faith that is marked by a radical willingness to forgive one another, what might that look like? What might it look like interpersonally if we were to boldly live out what Jesus is getting at with this phrase of the Lord's Prayer?
5. Lastly, what is the connection between being a radically forgiving community of faith and our mission in the city? Or to put it another way, how does praying what Jesus teaches us to pray and actually living it out make the gospel even more attractive (if we could put it that way)?

**"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive"** (Colossians 3:13).