

**Forgive us our debts...**  
**(What does God expect of us?)**  
**Matt 6.12**

***Forgive us our debts as we have also forgiven our debtors***

**What debts do we owe God?**

A "debt" isn't so much something wrong that you do, as much as it's something that you fail to do. A debt is what you get when you fail to pay what you owe.

Jesus sees sin as a kind of indebtedness to God.

Jesus assumes that we're all debtors to God and teaches us to pray for forgiveness.

It's another way of saying we're all sinners.

The Bible has two main ways of talking about sin.

- lawbreaking
- "falling short"

Jesus says that we all "fall short" of what God expects of us, we all have outstanding debts with God that we simply can't pay off.

**What about debts others owe us?**

Jesus would say that we are to treat them the same way that we are asking God to treat us. "Do unto others as God has already done to you."

This is a family prayer, to be prayed by people who already are reconciled to God. It's a prayer that the relationship of forgiveness that we have with God would not be plugged up by unforgiveness on our part.

Matt 6.14-15 <sup>14</sup> *For if you forgive men, when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.* <sup>15</sup> *But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

(Matthew 18.23-35) Two notes: (1) the numbers are exaggerated. He owes 4.8 billion dollars, perhaps double that. (2) Don't apply the king's behaviour to God.

The problem was that the servant didn't behave forgiven.

If we truly pray "forgive us our debts," and receive God's forgiveness for our sins, the result will be that our lives are changed. One change will be that we do indeed "forgive our debtors." Not because we have to, to earn God's forgiveness, but because God's forgiveness reaches out to us and draws us in, enabling us to forgive others.

As we come to God, trusting in Jesus; he forgives us our debts.

"Forgive" = "to send away", "to let go", "to leave."

When God forgives us he "sends away" our sins. Ps 103.12 *He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.*

Micah 7.19 *You [God] will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.*