



Jesus viewed the world as a conflict between His kingdom and the kingdom of Satan. His mission was to save all the people of the world from the Kingdom of Satan and bring them into His kingdom. Jesus chose 12 men to help Him fulfill His mission.

Jesus spent three- and one-half years preparing these men for the war they would fight. He taught them how to use spiritual weapons of warfare to defeat Satan.

One of those spiritual weapons was prayer. Jesus taught His disciples to pray in a very specific way.

Luke 11:1-4

1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

NKJV

Today we are going to finish unpacking verse 4

4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

NKJV

Two weeks ago, we learned...

- To receive forgiveness of sins from God, God requires repentance of sin and atonement for sin.

Last week we learned...

Jesus taught His disciples to continue to repent of their sins and ask for forgiveness of sin because...

- He wanted His disciple's relationship with the Father to grow in mutual trust.

Today I want us to learn that Jesus taught His disciple to continue to repent of their sins and ask for forgiveness of sin because

- He wanted His disciples to avoid giving Satan an opportunity to oppress them.

Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

NKJV

The word temptation is the word...

peirasmos (pi-ras-mos'); a putting to proof, test, or trial. It can be by an experience of good, or experience of evil so by implication, adversity.

We live in a fallen world. Temptation or trial is unavoidable. For the church, God's purpose for all trial is to purify us; help us grow spiritually; mature in faith and love.

It is why James said...

James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

KJV

But if we are disciples of Jesus, if we are unrepentant of our sins, our heavenly Father will allow us to be tempted by Satan.

King Saul experienced this

1 Samuel 16:14

But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.

NKJV

King Ahab experienced this

1 Kings 22:19-22

19 Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.

20 And the Lord said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner.

21 Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, and said, 'I will persuade him.'

22 The Lord said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the Lord said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.'

NKJV

King Abimelech experienced this

Judges 9:22-23

22 After Abimelech had reigned over Israel three years,

23 God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,

NKJV

God would do this to Israel as a nation when they forsook Him

1 Chronicles 5:26

26 So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, that is, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria. He carried the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh into captivity. He took them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river of Gozan to this day.

NKJV

During the ministry of Jesus, Jesus dealt with Jews including His own disciples that believed if you were suffering, you must be an unrepentant sinner.

Jesus taught this was not true. But Jesus did teach His disciples that if we are unrepentant of our sins, our heavenly Father will allow us to be tempted or tried by Satan.

Paul understood this and taught this to the church.

1 Corinthians 5:3-5

3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

NKJV

Paul warned the church about this

Ephesians 4:26-27

26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

27 nor give place to the devil.

NKJV

James warned the church about this

James 3:14-15

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

NKJV

Unconfessed sin is an invitation to the devil to oppress us.

- It is like leaving your doors unlocked when you live in a neighborhood where there are thieves.
- It is like handing a loaded weapon to someone that hates you.
- It is like giving your personal information to a scammer.

If Christ lives in you, you cannot be possessed by the devil. But you can be oppressed when you are unrepentant for sin. The word oppress means to exercise power over another. This can lead to bondage to sin and bondage to Satan. Satan can torment you mentally and emotionally.

To avoid this, we need to live a transparent life before God, especially when other people offend us. So, Jesus taught His disciples to pray...

[Luke 11:4](#)

[And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."](#)

[NKJV](#)

There are two sins of the heart that Jesus talked about and the apostles warned the church about that we all need to take very seriously.

[James 3:14-15](#)

[14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.](#)

[15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.](#)

[NKJV](#)

Pride and bitterness!

These two sins of the heart work together. They are like two sides of the same coin.

Pride is an attitude. It is an attitude of the mind in which we have an over inflated view of our self; what we deserve; our importance to others. Pride causes us to envy others; to be self-seeking or greedy; to boast and be arrogant. Pride was the sin that caused Satan to rebel against God.

If we are proud and there is something we feel like we deserve and we do not get it, we are offended. Being offended is called bitterness.

[Bitterness is the condition in our soul when we are offended!](#)

The Greek word for bitterness means sharp. Bitterness causes our attitude, our behavior, and our emotions, to be sharp and painful to others. Bitterness causes us to have an ill will toward others. In the bible, this ill will is called hate.

The writer of Hebrews said this about the destructive power of bitterness.

[Hebrews 12:14-15](#)

[14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:](#)

[15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;](#)

[NKJV](#)

Pride and bitterness are the greatest root causes of addiction.

[Hebrews 12:14-16](#)

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:  
15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness  
springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;  
16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold  
his birthright.  
NKJV

Bitterness grieves the Holy Spirit in the church.

Ephesians 4:29-32

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary  
edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of  
redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all  
malice.

32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ  
forgave you.

NKJV

To avoid this snare of the devil, Jesus taught His disciples to keep their soul free of offense.  
To keep their soul free of offense, they needed to humble themselves and forgive others  
even as they had been forgiven by God in Christ.

Humility and forgiveness are like two sides of the same coin.

Humility is an attitude of our mind that means to depress our view of ourselves and our  
importance, what we deserve in our mind. While God wants us to believe we are  
wonderfully and fearfully made, He does not want us to believe that we are deserving of His  
love and blessings.

To forgive means to send away or release. It was a word that was used frequently when  
someone cancelled a debt they were owed.

Forgiving someone for sin means to send away or release to God the debt others personally  
owe you for their sin against you. It is also letting go of any ill will and hatred you have for  
that person.

Because of the fall of man, we are all capable of doing the most horrendous and heinous  
things to other people.

- Murder
- Sexual Perversion
- Torture
- Betrayal

If you are a victim, it is difficult if not impossible to forgive unless you understand what you owed God and how God has forgiven you in Christ.

Forgiving others creates an incredible freedom in our soul to love people that have offended us and love them just as they are.  
How have other people sinned against you?

What debt do others owe you for their sin?

Have you had an ill will or hatred toward someone who has sinned against you or against someone you love?

Are you still offended? Are you carrying that offense? If you are carrying that offense, you are bitter in your soul?

Since Jesus already paid for your debt and theirs, why are you holding on to it? You must be proud. You must have an over inflated view of your self and what you deserve. You must not really understand the depths of your own depravity, your sins against a holy and righteous God, and the price God has paid to forgive you.

What needs to happen to you for you to forgive others?

- [Saved \(Romans 10:9-13\)](#)

It is only through the resurrection power of Jesus Christ that you can follow Jesus and become a person that forgives others. You receive His resurrection power by repenting of your sin and trusting in Jesus to be the atonement for your sin.

- [Surrender \(Romans 12:1-2\)](#)

As you confess pray and confess your sins to God, forgive the debt of those who have sinned against you. Say in prayer....

I forgive \_\_\_\_\_.

Forgiving needs to be a daily exercise in our prayers. With some people in your life forgiving them in prayer may need to occur many times a day.

In order to walk in freedom from offense and bitterness, we need community in the body of Christ. We need brothers and sisters in Christ that we share life with; that we are transparent with when we are hurt and offended; that will be transparent with us; that will point us to Jesus; that will encourage us; that will create accountability.

[So why did Jesus teach His disciples to continue to repent of their sins and ask for forgiveness of sin if He knew He was going to atone for their sins?](#)

- [Jesus wanted His disciple's relationship with the Father to grow in mutual trust.](#)
- [Jesus wanted His disciples to avoid giving Satan an opportunity to oppress them.](#)