



Jesus prepared 12 men for the most difficult mission that any men had undertaken in world history. Their mission was to convince the world that He was God and the Ruler of the Kingdom of God. To fulfill this mission these 12 men had to overcome the ruler of this world, Satan. Their mission was to begin in Israel and then they were to take His message throughout the known world. Jesus had three- and one-half years to prepare them.

Is it any wonder that these men would ask Jesus to teach them to pray?
In Luke 11, the disciples of Jesus asked Jesus to teach them to Pray.

Here is how Jesus taught them to pray....

[Luke 11:1-4](#)

11 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."

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Today we are going to unpack the first part of 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."

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The word sins come from the Greek Word Harmartia. It means to miss the mark and to not share in the prize. The word is also translated faults, trespass, or offend.

To the Jews, offending God was very serious.

You can read about the blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience in Lev. 26:1-46 and Deut. 28:1-68.

Blessings

1. Health
2. Wealth
3. Descendants
4. Victory
5. Respect

Curses

1. Sickness
2. Poverty
3. Death
4. Defeat
5. Slavery

The entire Old Testament history of the Jews beginning with Moses is one example after another of the truth of Lev. 26 and Deut. 28.

When the Jews offended God, their sin would destroy their person, their posterity(descendants), and their people(nation).

According to Moses, obeying God was a matter of life and death.

Deut. 30:19-20

19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

20 that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."
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When they offended God, the Jews could ask God for forgiveness of sin. God promised the Jews He would forgive their sins.

2 Chron 7:12-15

12 Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.

13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,

14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

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To the Jew there was not a more important request they could make to God than for forgiveness for sin. It was a matter of life and death!

But to receive forgiveness of sin from God, the Jews also understood that God would not forgive sin unless there was an atonement for sin.

The word atone meant to cover; to expiate; to cancel. Something or someone had to be offered to God to stop His judgment.

Ex 32:30-33:1

30 Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

31 Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold!

32 Yet now, if You will forgive their sin — but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

33 And the Lord said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.

34 Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin."

35 So the Lord plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.

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The first record that we have in the bible of anyone making atonement for sin was Abel, the son of Adam.

Genesis 4:4

4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering,

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There is no record of how he knew what to offer God or how to ask God for forgiveness of sins, but we know he made a blood sacrifice that God accepted as an atonement for his sins. God forgave his sins and declared him to be righteous.

Thousands of years later, this was written about Abel in the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 11:4

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

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We can presume that Abel learned what God required for forgiveness of sin from what God did for Adam and Eve after they sinned.

Genesis 3:21

21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin and clothed them.

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Since God's penalty for each sin was death, death was required to atone for the sins of men so that men could continue to live.

After Abel, there is not any record of people making atonement for sin until Noah. It does not mean that it did not happen, it just means there is no record. Here is what the bible says about Noah making atonement for sin.

Genesis 8:20

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

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Noah is the first record that we have of an altar being built for the offering of a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin. We do not know how he came up with the idea of building an altar.

Moving forward in the timeline of the old testament we have the examples of altars being built and blood sacrifices for atonement for sin being made in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Then there is a long period of silence for over 400 years in the biblical record about anyone approaching God for forgiveness of sin and making atonement for sin. This was while the Jews were in Egypt.

Before the Jews left Egypt, God gave them a perpetual reminder that atonement for sin was a condition for forgiveness of sin. God called it the Passover.

Ex 12:12-14

12 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

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After they left Egypt, the practice of building an altar and making blood sacrifice for forgiveness of sin became the center of worship for the Jews. In the law of Moses, God explicitly provided for them His instructions for making atonement for sin.

Exodus 20:24

24 An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.

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God chose the sacrifices. God chose the kind of altar. God chose the location for the altar to be built and where the sacrifices would be offered. God chose a priesthood to administer the offerings and to lead the people to confess their sins.

There were morning and evening sacrifices by the priests that represented the nation. There were personal sacrifices required at special feasts three times a year.

The Jews understood from the law of Moses and their prophets that there was only one thing that stood between them and the judgment of a righteous and Holy God against their nation, an atonement for their sin.

The Jews knew God as a merciful and forgiving God, but they knew experiencing His mercy and forgiveness was dependent upon an atonement for their sin.

Through their prophets, God promised the Jews a time when the daily sacrifices would no longer be necessary to receive forgiveness of sin.

Jeremiah 31:33-34

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

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It was a mystery to the Jews how God would accomplish this in them.

The writer of Hebrews explains this mystery.

Hebrews 10:11-18

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 ***But this Man (Jesus)***, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"

17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

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When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "and forgive us our sins," His disciples had no idea that Jesus would solve the mystery for the Jews. As John the Baptist had predicted, Jesus would become the perfect lamb of God that took away the sins of the world.

How does this apply to you?

- You need to ask God to forgive you for your sins based on the atonement of Jesus for your sins.

Jesus taught His disciples that there was a greater reason to ask God forgiveness of sin than the blessings and curses promised to the Jews.

Matt 10:28-29

8 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

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Jesus taught that every person has an eternal soul and that we will either spend eternity in heaven with Him or in hell without Him.

I would assume that everyone has asked God to forgive them for their sins at some point in their life.

God will not forgive you for your sins unless you ask Him based on your faith in the atonement of Jesus for your sins.

The Jews stopped making atonement for sins because the place was destroyed that God prescribed in the law of Moses for the offerings to be made.

The Jews currently believe that they can atone for their sins by their prayers and charity. They contradict the laws of Moses and their prophets.

[Leviticus 17:11](#)

[11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'](#)

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As the Jews are confused, you may be confused. You cannot atone for your sins by your prayers or your charity. God will not forgive you for your sins no matter how many good deeds you perform. God looks upon your good deeds as filthy rags.

To receive God's forgiveness for sin, you must confess your sins and ask God to forgive you for your sins based on the death of Jesus for your sins.

If you will believe upon Jesus for the forgiveness of sin, God will forgive all your sins, past, present, and future. Once you have placed your faith in Jesus for forgiveness of sin you can be assured that any sin you commit in your future has been covered by the atonement of Jesus. There is nothing more for you to offer God. Jesus paid it all!

You can approach God's throne of grace boldly in your time of need and know that whatever you have done, it has been covered by Jesus. You are eternally accepted.

[Hebrews 4:14-16](#)

[14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.](#)

[15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.](#)

[16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.](#)

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[What then would keep you from coming to Jesus for forgiveness of sin and then continuing in sin?](#)

If you confess your sins and ask God to forgive you for your sins based on the atonement of Jesus for your sins, Jesus will send His Spirit to live in you.

You will experience the resurrection power of Jesus.

Just as Jesus was raised from the death, you will be raised from spiritual death.

Just as the bodily nature of Jesus was changed at His resurrection, your spiritual nature will be changed by your resurrection.

This change in nature means that the laws of God are written on your heart just as the prophets foretold.

You still have a free will and you can choose sin, but if you try to continue in sin, you are going to be miserable. Continuing in sin with God's Spirit in you is like....

- A fish trying to live out of water.
- An eagle taking up residence with a flock of turkeys.
- An OU fan trying to become a Texas fan.

If you receive Jesus for forgiveness of sin, continuing in sin defies who you really are since Christ is in you!

If you receive Jesus for forgiveness of sin and you can honestly tell me that you are content living in sin, I would tell you that you are either a liar or that you have not received Jesus.

If you have never confessed your sins to God and asked God to forgive you for your sins based on the atonement of Jesus for your sins, my challenge to you is don't do it until you are ready to be changed by Jesus.

God knows your heart when you approach Him. He knows if you are genuinely repentant or if you are just pretending to want to have a relationship with Him so that you will be accepted by others.

You can pray the sinner's prayer a thousand times and you will not experience God's forgiveness and the resurrection power of Jesus unless you believe upon Jesus for the forgiveness of sin and you want Jesus to change who you are!

- [You need to keep a short account of your sins with God when you are convicted you have sinned.](#)

Keeping a short account of your sins will not be a problem if you have received Jesus. When you sin, your new spiritual nature and the Holy Spirit react within you. You have a free will. Just agree with yourself and the Holy Spirit. Don't make excuses. Don't blame anyone else for your sin. Just say I was wrong. If you want to say, forgive me, go ahead. This is a personal relationship. But don't believe for a moment your request atones for your sins. Don't go back into bondage under the law.

To keep a short account of your sins, humble yourself and confess your immaturity to God. We have a new spiritual nature, but our soul and our bodies need to be transformed. If you

are under the delusion that you don't need any more work, end that delusion. God accepts you and receives you as perfectly righteous because Jesus is in you, but that does not mean you are Jesus. God is not blind to your deficiencies and where you are immature. God is going to keep working in you to help you grow up. Welcome it. Just say God on a regular basis, I know I am deficient in these ways, and I need your help to grow up.

To keep a short account, share life with other disciples that want to make disciples. We are maturing in faith and love. We cannot grow in faith and love in isolation. We need authentic transparent relationships with others to grow in faith and love.