

Matthew 6: 7-13 "Forgive us as we forgive"

Read Matthew 6:9-15

The three petitions in the Lord's prayer are joined by the Greek word 'kai' (and), telling us that these are the three things we need to sustain life. Life is sustained when we have our material needs met (daily bread), resources for right relationship (forgive us as we forgive), and protection and preservation (deliver us from evil and temptation).

1. (vs.12) The Lord's prayer invites us to confess our sins in a way that is very different from how we normally envision repentance. In the context of the Lord's prayer what do you think it means to ask for forgiveness of debt?
2. In the Lord's prayer confession comes out of adoration. "Heavenly Father, Hallowed be your name, forgive us..." How does confession look when it arises from adoration?

Read Matthew 18:23-33

This parable includes the same language as the petition. It is an illustration of the petition.

3. What do we learn about the process of forgiveness from the example of the King?
4. How is the servant's response to the King incongruous with a natural reaction to what has happened to him? What does this reveal about what is to motivate our forgiveness of others?
5. How does the forgiveness that Jesus brings us through the cross shape our forgiveness of others?
6. Think of the relationships who are currently in – how could your reflection on this text change those relationships? What is one step you will commit to? How can you pray for and encourage one another in moving toward right relationship?