

May 7. A Forgiving Spirit

by J.R. Miller

Transcript

"Forgive us our sins" as we have forgiven those who sin against us." Matthew 6:12

The first part of this petition, "forgive us our sins" is not so hard to say. Most people are willing to confess, at least in a general way "that they have sinned.

But the second part is harder to repeat: "as we have forgiven those who sin against us." When someone has done us an injury, and we are feeling bitter over it "then it is not so easy to ask God to forgive us " as we forgive. Perhaps we do not forgive at all " but keep the bitter feeling in our heart against our brother.

What is it, then, that we ask God to do for us when we pray, "Forgive us " as we forgive"? God has linked blessing and duty together in this petition. If we will not forgive those who have wronged us " it is evident that we have not the spirit of penitence to which God grants forgiveness of sins. If we would enjoy the sweet peace of God in our own hearts " we must keep our minds free from all bitterness and anger and all feelings of unforgiveness.

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