

## Day Nine

*"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.' -Matthew 6:9-13*

### And forgive us our debts,

The apostle John writes in his letter: *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. -1 John 1:8.* Contrary to some of our 'modern' thinking, there is a moral standard that we must adhere to. There is a certainty that we can know of right and wrong in this world. That certainty also carries with it the fact that we sin. There is not one standard for you and another for me. We should not think there are situational ethics that move the line of morality when it suits the user. We are all led by a universal law which cannot be changed nor amended.

Jesus begins His beautiful Sermon on the Mount, as we know it, with what we have come to know as "The Beatitudes". Each Beatitude builds upon the previous one in an ever increasing ascent to God. Beginning with: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 5:3,* Jesus shows us our dependence upon God when we realize our own emptiness within. With this as the foundation, He next moves to a verse that tells us of our realization of that chasm that exists between God's righteousness and our own helplessness. *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. -Matthew 5:4.*

How shall we be comforted? We are forgiven. It is the only remedy for the sin sick heart. The prophet Isaiah tells of those who dwell with God on high: *For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite. -Isaiah 57:15.* He revives the heart of those who feel the sting of their sins and fly to Him who alone can heal with forgiveness.

The parable of the self-righteous Pharisee and the tax-gatherer gives us a clear picture of two hearts that stand opposed in their attitude to God. The Pharisee is full of himself as he boasts of his deeds and his superiority as he dared stand upright before God. The other, one who would not even look up but realized his sins was heard by God by his humility of heart.

All are in need of forgiveness. *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, - Romans 3:23.* In Christ we find the remedy for that sin. *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; -1 John 2:1* and again..*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:9*

The writer of Hebrews gives us words of encouragement that we need not shrink back from God because of our sins. Because of our Great High Priest he gives us confidence: *Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. -Hebrews 4:16*

We now come to God with our own helpless state and seek His forgiveness. We are assured that indeed we shall find that forgiveness if our heart is right. If we come to Him in His Son, He is faithful to forgive. *Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. -Psalms 51:7*

*Prayerful Thoughts: Father in heaven, we come to Thee for forgiveness and cleansing which Thy Son is more than able to do. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.*