

Matthew 6:11-15 • Embracing Humility and Forgiveness Flourishing by Following • April 6, 2025 • www.isonrise.com

We live in a world that celebrates self-sufficiency, independence, and pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. In this society, we believe the key to human flourishing is discovering ourselves and forging our paths. From a young age, we are encouraged to believe in ourselves and shape our own destinies. We think that strength is found in high self-esteem. Have you ever considered that the key to experiencing God's grace in your life might stem from embracing a posture of complete dependence, a position so vulnerable that it resembles that of a beggar? What if the Kingdom of God operates on an entirely different economy, one where our strength lies in admitting our weakness, and our riches are revealed through recognizing our poverty of spirit?

Today, we will explore a seemingly simple yet profoundly challenging passage from the Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 6:11-15, where Jesus teaches us to pray. Within this model prayer, we find a radical call to humility, a recognition of our constant need for God's provision, and a startling connection between receiving forgiveness and extending it to others. The posture of physical and spiritual poverty before God is the key to accomplishing one of the most challenging tasks we can face as humans: forgiveness.

Big Idea: Beggars can't be bitter. The second half of the Lord's prayer shows us the beggarly posture Jesus expects from his followers. I believe the word "beggar" accurately reflects the humility and awareness Jesus wants us to have concerning our spiritual and physical needs. We'll explore how embracing this "beggar's heart" unlocks the door to experiencing God's grace in its fullness, transforming our relationships with both God and others. We will discover that true strength is not in self-reliance but in surrendering to God's love and mercy.

Matthew 6:11-15, ¹¹"Give us this day our daily bread, ¹²and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Jesus instructs us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." It's a simple request, yet it speaks volumes about our relationship with God. In our modern context, where grocery stores are overflowing with abundance and pantries are often stocked for weeks, it's easy to lose sight of the daily dependence on God that this prayer embodies. The portion is important. Notice that Jesus doesn't tell us to pray for a year's worth of bread or even a month's worth. He instructs us to ask for *daily* bread. Why? Because God wants us to cultivate a daily awareness of our reliance on Him. He desires a relationship where we come to Him each day, acknowledging that He is the source of all provision. Praying for only what we need for today forces us to be mindful of our dependence on God. It prevents us from becoming complacent or self-sufficient. It reminds us that every meal, every provision, every blessing comes from His hand. When we pray for the extended future, we risk forgetting the source of our blessings. We might start to believe that our own hard work, our own

cleverness, or our own planning is what sustains us. But the daily prayer for bread keeps us grounded in the truth that God is our provider.

How often do we pause to thank God for the food on our table? How often do we acknowledge that He is the one who provides for our needs? This prayer challenges us to cultivate a daily habit of gratitude and dependence. We are, in fact, beggars physically. Jesus does not point this out to demean us but rather to illustrate our dependence and the Father's eagerness to bless us each day. While Jesus addresses our physical dependence in this model prayer, he spends significantly more time highlighting our spiritual dependence on God.

Forgiveness.

Jesus' teaching on forgiveness is striking. It seems that Jesus presents forgiveness as conditional: if we forgive, we will be forgiven; if we do not forgive, we will not be forgiven. This can be a troubling thought. Does this mean that our salvation hinges on our ability to forgive? Does it mean that God's forgiveness is dependent on our own actions? We must be careful to see the whole picture of what Jesus says here and not just part of it. Let's slowly unpack these verses together to understand Jesus' words here.

"As we also have forgiven"- this is a surprising statement. I have never prayed for God to treat me as I have treated others. Think about it. Have you ever truly considered the implications of asking God to treat you as you have treated others? Have you always been merciful, compassionate, and forgiving? The truth is, we often fall short of the standard of love and grace that God embodies. The "as" here is a weaker comparative particle, not the intensive comparative particle, which would be translated as "just like" or "exactly as." This indicates that Matthew believes the mercy we receive from God will not be "exactly" like the mercy we give others. They will be similar but not identical. When we zoom out and see the complete picture the Bible paints of God's forgiveness, we see that His forgiveness is always more expansive, more profound, and more transformative than our own.

Luke employs the present tense in his version of the comparative clause of verse 12, which eliminates the notion that our past forgiveness of others prompts God to forgive us in the present. Luke's account shows these actions: asking for forgiveness and granting forgiveness as happening simultaneously. *Luke 11:3-4, "Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us."* We seek forgiveness as we forgive others. Luke's presentation of this teaching allows us to see that Jesus is not thinking of strict sequential causation: A, then B, and finally C. It's not about earning God's forgiveness through our efforts but about aligning our hearts with His heart and reflecting His mercy in our lives. It's about recognizing our need for forgiveness and extending that same grace to others simultaneously.

Verses 14 and 15, taken on their own, can lead us to adopt a conditional view of forgiveness. However, considering verse 12 and Jesus' other teachings on forgiveness, especially in Matthew 18, helps us see that Jesus is aiming at something else. He's not establishing a legalistic formula for earning forgiveness. He's revealing a deeper truth about the nature of forgiveness itself.

The Father's forgiveness here should be understood as the ultimate forgiveness declared on the day of judgment. The use of the future tense supports this conclusion, as does the conclusion of Jesus' parable in Matthew 18, which explores the relationship between how one forgives others and how the Father forgives. It's about the final verdict on our lives, the ultimate determination of our relationship with God.

It is important for us to see three actions in this passage related to forgiveness, not just the two spoken of in verses 14 and 15. This passage outlines three actions related to forgiveness: granting it to others, asking for it from God, and receiving it from Him. We must recognize that all three actions are interconnected. We can't separate them from each other. Jesus' point here is not which one comes first but instead that they are all connected. In the parable of Matthew 18:21-35, forgiveness is granted before the act of unforgiveness. In that parable, a servant who had been forgiven an enormous debt refused to forgive a fellow servant who owed him a much smaller amount. The master, upon learning of the servant's unforgiving heart, revoked his forgiveness and threw him into prison. The parable illustrates the hypocrisy of expecting forgiveness from God while refusing to extend it to others. It highlights the importance of recognizing our own need for mercy and extending that same mercy to those who have wronged us. This also illustrates that the point is not to establish straightforward causation- first, we forgive, then God forgives- but to demonstrate correlation: the forgiven forgive. The one who has truly experienced God's forgiveness will naturally extend forgiveness to others.

Seeing the *beggarly* posture Jesus promotes for his followers helps us immensely in understanding the connection between experiencing forgiveness and extending forgiveness. Verse 12 reminds us that the one who practices forgiving others is asking for forgiveness from God. This reminds us of the humble posture Jesus spoke about in the Beatitudes at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. He instructed His disciples to be poor in spirit, meek, hungry, merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers. Asking God for forgiveness shows that one is aware of their moral failures. They see their spiritual poverty and moral bankruptcy before God. This awareness is not meant to demean or depress us but rather to help us see how God wants to heal us. The one who claims he can never forgive another is only conscious of the sins of his offender and not truly aware of his own.

Forgiveness is not possible because we diminish the offense to an acceptable level but because we recognize that the mercy and justice of the cross overshadow it. In the light of the cross, we see the true depth of our sin and the boundless extent of God's love. In the cross, we find the power to forgive, even when it seems impossible.

Temptation

The focus of verse 13 is on future sins, whereas the teaching on forgiveness focuses on past sins. God does not directly tempt His children, but He allows them to be tested by the tempter, as Jesus was when the Spirit led Him to the desert (Matthew 4:1-11). In this case, Satan and the Father had different agendas.

Both clauses, "lead us not" and "deliver us from," emphasize the disciple's vulnerability. The term "deliver" reflects our helplessness. We don't need a helper; we need a hero. We cannot confront the Evil One alone. This humility demonstrates the character of the one described in the Beatitudes.

"But" is a strong adversative that illustrates the shift from avoiding temptation to confronting it, thereby seeking deliverance. The disciples are being taught to protect themselves from temptation and during temptation. We are called to be vigilant, resist the devil, and flee from temptation. However, we are also called to rely on God's strength and trust in His power to deliver us from evil.

Beggars can't be bitter. It is interesting that our motivation for generosity and compassion is an awareness of our poverty. When we recognize the frailty of our physical existence and the weakness of our spiritual power, we not only see our dependency on God but also view our

neighbors with more sympathy and compassion. It is impossible for the one who has seen God let go of every offense they have committed against Him to hold on to the offenses committed against them.

Beware of bitterness. Your bitterness towards others may reveal that you haven't yet fully seen the cross with clarity. The cross shows us the seriousness of sin. The pain and agony of the Son on the cross scream to us the severity of sin. Yet, the louder expression is the deafening volume of God's mercy. I encourage you today to pray that God would drown your bitterness in the ocean of His mercy.

If you are not yet following Jesus, I hope you will see that Jesus asking you to take the posture of a beggar is not an insult to your esteem but rather an invitation to freedom and flourishing. In the incarnation, Jesus entered our poverty. He meets us when we kneel and then makes us capable of standing. Will you join Jesus today on your knees, confessing your need for Him? He will meet you there. You will miss him if you never humble yourself and kneel.

Life-Level Application

Head: Read Matthew 6:11, Exodus 16:4-5. Reflect on how the request for "daily bread" in Matthew 6:11 compares to God providing manna in Exodus 16:4-5. How can these passages encourage you to practice daily reliance on God rather than self-sufficiency? In what practical ways can you cultivate gratitude and a recognition of your dependence on God in your everyday life?

Heart: Read Matthew 18:21-35. How does this parable illustrate the need for a "beggar's posture" in receiving and giving forgiveness? What emotions do you feel when you meditate on your great need for God's forgiveness?

Hand: Read Proverbs 30:7-9. How does this passage complement the prayer for protection from temptation in Matthew 6:13 and for "daily bread" in Matthew 6:11? What temptations do you face in times of plenty and in times of need?

Habit: How might bitterness in your heart indicate a lack of full understanding or reception of God's forgiveness? Consider practical steps to surrender any bitterness to God's mercy. Discuss those steps with a friend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Journey Kickoff: Spring Term 2025 | Vision Night Tues. Apr 22!

Join us for the 10-week Sonrise Journey this Spring, powered by ROOTED! This small group experience will help you connect with God, the Church community, and your purpose through daily devotions, prayer, serving, and more. Whether you're new to the faith or a longtime believer, commit to attending all 10 sessions for a life-changing experience. Groups begin with Vision Night on April 22nd. Sign up through the Church Center App or connect with Martye at martyeh@isonrise.com.

Women's Clothing Swap | Sat. Apr. 12 | 8:30-11:30AM | Fireside Room

Hey ladies! You're invited to our very first women's clothing swap! April 12th from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. It's the perfect chance to clean out your closets, snag some new stuff for free, and hang out with friends. This event is just for women—sorry, no kids allowed! But feel free to bring along infants, and young ladies aged 12 and up are totally welcome to join in the fun too! Email daniz@isonrise.com with any questions.

Men's Breakfast | Sat. Apr. 12 | 8-9:30AM | Dining Hall

Join our monthly gathering for men of all ages to get together around tables for a meal and meaningful conversation.

Heart for Moms | Spring Session: April 15 – June 13 | Tues. 9:30-11:30AM

Join us for coffee, snacks, worship, a speaker, and prayer. Whether you're thriving or just getting by, we're here to support and encourage each other in motherhood. Women of all life stages welcome! Childcare provided. For more info, contact Annette Brooks at 503.274.4795.

Good Friday | Fri. Apr. 18 | Church Open for Prayer: 7AM – 4PM • Service: 6PM | Auditorium

Our church will be open from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm for dedicated prayer, culminating in a powerful 6:00 pm service that explores the emotions of redemption: compassion, sympathy, and joy. Join us as we journey through Christ's suffering, discovering hope and strength in His unwavering love, and praying for the salvation of those we cherish.

Easter | Sun. Apr. 20 | Services: 8:30AM • 10AM • 11:30AM

Join us for Easter services on Sunday, April 20th, at 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, and 11:30 AM. Our Kids Ministry will be available for children up to 1st grade. We look forward to celebrating this special day with you!

Songs from this morning:

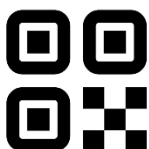
We Praise You – Bethel Music (Brandon Lake)

Fall Afresh – Jeremy Riddle

Because of Christ - Andrew Holt, Chris Clayton, and Mitch Wong

Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace) – Hillsong Worship

Death Arrested – North Point



For more info or to
register, visit isonrise.com
or explore events/groups
on the Church Center App.