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Description automatically generated **HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Study**

***Power of Pardon***

Matthew 6:9-13 & Matthew 18:23-35

Psychologists tell us that two of the greatest barriers in your life that keep us from experiencing peace of mind & joy in our lives are guilt & resentment. The Prayer of Pardon takes forgiveness a step further. It is not that we just receive God’s forgiveness, but that we receive God’s forgiveness in the same proportion with which we offer forgiveness to others.

Peter asked this question of Jesus in Matthew 18:21, “Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how many times could my brother sin against me and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” The Jewish law required forgiveness of people 3 x. Jesus said in verse 22, “I tell you, not as many as seven,” Jesus said to him, “but seventy times seven.” Jesus says your forgiveness for others is unlimited. Thus, our forgiveness for one another must be unlimited.

Jesus tells us the story of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:23-35 to teach us some important principles about the Prayer of Pardon which allows us to release the hurts of our lives.

The question: Why must we forgive those who have hurt us deeply? Why must we release them so as to release this hurt? This is a choice you make: You’ll either rehearse it or release it. So, let’s look at 2 things today:

I. THERE IS F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ IN RELEASING OUR HURTS

We want God’s forgiveness. We also want the hurts of our lives to be healed. In order for this to happen we need to understand that Jesus teaches us that forgiveness & healing are found in releasing & forgiving those who have hurt us.

A) WE FORGIVE BECAUSE G\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FORGIVES US!

Jesus tells us in this parable of forgiveness this in Mt. 18:27, “Then the master of that slave had compassion, released him, and forgave him the loan.” The Bible teaches us in Romans 3:23 that “All have sinned…”, but when we trust our lives to Jesus, God declares us “Not guilty!”

Now the key issue for us today is this: The question is not, “Does this person deserve my forgiveness?” WE do not forgive because someone deserves our forgiveness, but because we have been forgiven by God.

Paul says in Ephesians 4:32, “And be kind & compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.”

B) WE FORGIVE BECAUSE RESENTMENT IS T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

Resentful people or bitter people are hurt worse than those who hurt them. In our story today, the word “jailers” in Greek literally means “torturers.” His unforgiveness resulted in personal t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

C) WE FORGIVE BECAUSE DAILY WE N\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FORGIVENESS

► Here is the principle: You cannot receive from God what you are unwilling to g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to others. The Lord’s Prayer Jesus teaches us to pray the Prayer of Pardon, “God forgive me as much as I forgive others.” Forgiveness is not a 1-time event. It is a l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus summed up the parable in Mt. 18 with these words in vs. 35, “So My heavenly Father will also do to you if each of you does not f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his brother from his heart.”

II. THERE IS F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ IN RELEASING OUR HURTS!

Paul teaches us in 1 Cor. 13: 5, “Love keeps no record of wrongs.” The Prayer of Pardon is the key because when we release & forgive those who have hurt us, we find real freedom from guilt, resentment, & bitterness that damages & destroys our lives. So how do I release my hurt?

A) I GIVE TO GOD THOSE WHO H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ME!

The Pray of Pardon says, “God I’ll let Y\_\_\_\_\_\_ take care of them!” Paul chose to live this principle in his own life & teaches us this in Romans 12:19, “Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for His wrath. For it is written: Vengeance belongs to Me; I will r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, says the Lord.”

B) I HEAL BY ALLOWING GOD’S G\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TO WORK IN ME!

Too often we let others who hurt us control us. Rather than be proactive, we spend our lives being reactive to those who hurt us. The only cure for your hurting heart & to get some hurtful out of your mind & not controlling you is to heal it with God’s g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Heb 12:15

C) I HEAL BY FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

On the cross Jesus broke the chains of sin, addictions, hurts, habits, & pain. What Jesus did on that cross gives you the power to heal from your hurts, get over your guilt and your grief, to release and relinquish your bitterness, and to reveal and receive God’s peace in your heart, life, mind, and family.