

Message

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**And Forgive us Our Trespasses
as we Forgive those who Trespass Against us**

Aramaic

Washboglan khaubayn (wakhtahayn)

Aykana daph khan shbwwoqan l'khayyabayn

Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,
As we release the strands we hold of others' guilt

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As we know, some strange and yet wonderful translations have come from children regarding the Lord's Prayer. Once again little Joey, who was asked to pray the Lord's Prayer by the minister when she and her husband were over for dinner. The Reverend was particularly amused when Joey got to this part of the prayer: *"And give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trash as we forgive those who pass trash against us."*

After chuckling at little Joey, I got to thinking about this translation. *"Forgive us our trash"* is really quite prophetic, is it not? For thousands and thousands of years, the natives who lived on this continent left little or no trace of their existence. Unfortunately, they were called savages and heathen, but these natives lived in harmony with the land and the Great Spirit.

Now in our modern society, we have mountains of trash around the world



that are being dumped into our home- Mother Earth. We, as a people, are having an extremely difficult time of living in harmony with Mother Earth. Little Joey may have been on to something as we ask not only Mother Earth, but also God to *“forgive us our trash”* that clutters the earth, our home.

Furthermore, as Joey stated in his prayer *“forgive us our trash”* could mean more than material trash. Some of the things that are displayed on facebook and other forms of social media have injured and caused a great deal of harm resulting in pain in the lives of those who have been targeted. Many have committed suicide after being bullied on social media. Our hearts ache with those who have lost family and friends due to cyber-bullying.

“Forgive us our trash as we forgive those who pass trash against us” is actually a powerful and prophetic interpretation of this prayer.

Said another way from our Jewish New Testament reading from earlier is this:

*Forgive us what we have done wrong,
as we too have forgiven those who have wronged us.*

And yet another translation says, *“Forgive us our sin, as we forgive those who sin against us.”*

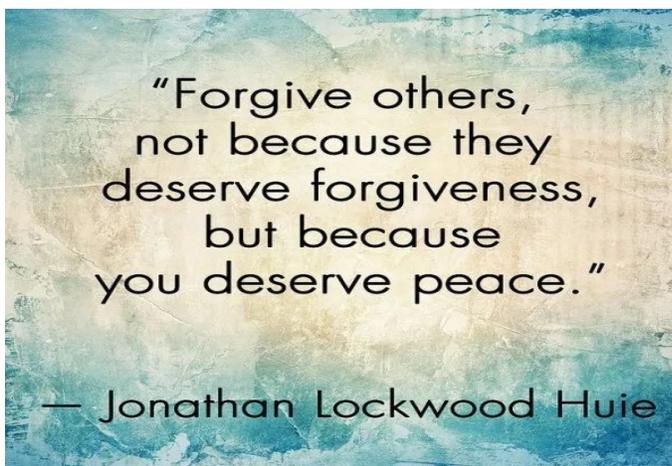
Really, is this true? Have we forgiven those who have wronged us? Stop for just a moment and ask yourself, “Have I forgiven those who have hurt me, wronged me, sinned against me?”

I have actually heard people say, “That is unforgivable!” **Is it? It may be unforgivable by human standards, but is it unforgivable by God’s standards?** I believe we all know the answer to this question intellectually. Intellectually, we know in our hearts that there is not a thing that God would not forgive. There is one thing that is mentioned in the Bible that is unforgivable and that is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. We will table that one for today, but know that if Saul, who became the apostle Paul could be forgiven for murder, we too can be forgiven.

As it says for today:

*Forgive us what we have done wrong,
as we too have forgiven those who have wronged us.*

How is this even possible? Yes, this is possible by the grace of God. The grace of God has helped me to forgive those who have hurt me deeply. The deeper the wound and the pain, the more difficult it is to forgive, but forgive we must, eventually. **Why? Why must we forgive?**



Contemplate that for a moment. Unforgiveness keeps you a prisoner to not only the pain, but to the one who caused you the pain. This week, I listened to a number of Ted Talks dealing with forgiveness. Powerful stories of

letting go of the pain and finding peace once again. One in particular was a young woman who eventually forgave the person who murdered her mom and her brother during a burglary in their home. To add to this pain, it was someone she knew who killed her mother and brother. I encourage you to simply google “*Ted Talks on forgiveness*”. When I did this the first one that popped up for me was this moving testimony of how Sarah Montana forgave this person who killed her mother and her brother. After listening to this amazing story of forgiveness, I thought about what Gandhi said which now I understand more fully:



I realize now that the journey to forgiveness is just that: a journey of those who are strong and those that desire to once again live in peace and harmony with the world.

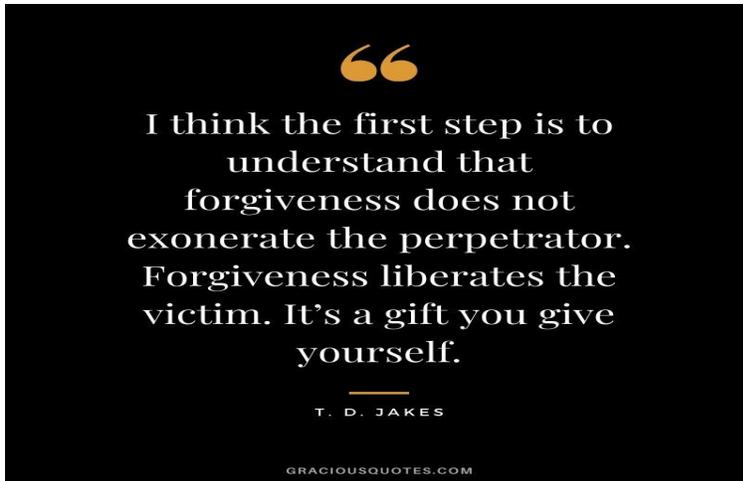
In Sarah’s journey of finding forgiveness, she discovered the heart-wrenching conditions that this man was enduring in prison. She had no idea just how inhumane some prisons were and unfortunately still are awful. Sarah discovered this truth on her journey to forgiveness. Here is a quote that illustrates this point from David Small:

“To understand somebody else as a human being, I think, is about as close to real forgiveness as one can get.”

By the grace of God, we can find forgiveness or we can ask for forgiveness if we have wronged someone. Yes, by the grace of God, we can ask for

forgiveness. **What if the person has passed onto the next life?** Write a letter. Go to their grave. I have asked for forgiveness to those who have passed on and by the grace of God, I feel forgiven.

There is one thing I believe is important to understand with this whole forgiveness thing and this is the thing:



If you can understand this truth, this truth will set you free!

For those who have been on this journey of forgiveness, either offering it or receiving it -- it is a journey. Don't fake it. It can be real. Work through anger, the pain, the anguish of it all and then there will come a moment where forgiveness is more than a concept, forgiveness can be felt, even when you need to forgive yourself.

I realize there is so much more to the grace of forgiveness, but for now, may we understand the part of the prayer of St. Francis where it says,

“It is in pardoning that we are pardoned ...” Unless we are able to pardon others for their wrongdoing, we are not equipped to do what we are called to do as followers of Yeshua:



**“We must develop
and maintain the
capacity to forgive.
He who is devoid of
the power to forgive
is devoid of the
power to love.”**

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

As followers of Jesus, who said, *“Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.”* We are called to love in all that we say and in all that we do. By the grace of God we can be filled with Yeshua’s unconditional love where we can discover the depths of what it means to live in peace and harmony with God and one another through forgiveness!

Hymn of Preparation for Holy Communion

[Sinead O'Connor - Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi \(1997\)](#)

Prayer of St. Francis