

In today's Gospel, Matthew 18:23-35, the Lord tells us a parable about the kingdom of heaven being compared to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When the servant fell to his knees asking for mercy, for he could not pay the debt, the king released him and forgave his debt. When this same servant asked for a fellow servant to pay back what he was owed, he showed no mercy, and demanded that he pay him sending him to prison. When the king heard this, he proclaimed, 'I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' With these words, he recanted and sent the man to prison until his debt was paid in full. Jesus Christ then said, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Dearest ones, we recite the Lord's Prayer, but do we apply it? What if we recited it this way?

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and DON'T forgive us our trespasses
as we DON'T forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Is this what we mean when we recite the Lord's Prayer? We are called to show love and mercy to one another, for to love is to give life. Let us love one another, and help one another forgive so that as Jesus Christ explained in the parable today, we can be forgiven. In His name let us pray to be given this strength; in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.