

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:12a

Date: September 5, 2012

Title: "The Cost"

Focus: The sacrifice that makes forgiveness possible.

### **Intro:**

1. In this portion of Jesus' prayer He speaks to His hearers about the weight of sin by pointing out to them God doesn't *overlook* debts. He "forgives" them.
2. There is a fundamental difference between the two.

### **Body:**

To Overlook a Transgression is to Ignore or Minimize an Event. i.e.: "It's not that bad."

- Were God to do this, He could not rightly be called fair or just.
- God does not show partiality or favorites. He deals with all equally.
- As His people, He instructed Israel not to have differing measures. For "*Everyone who acts unjustly is an abomination to the LORD your God.*" (Deut. 25:16)
- As His follower, one is to overlook, keep no account of, and bear with the *weaknesses* of others. (Rom. 15:1, Col 3:13, Gal. 6:2, 1 Cor. 13:5)
- However, sin is never to be condoned, overlooked, excused, or minimized, because God will not.
- Some will ask, what about Romans 9:13? "Jacob have I loved, but Esau I have hated." Isn't this proof that God is bias?
- A full reading of the text provides the answer. Paul says, "Certainly not!" (v. 14).
- God extends mercy and mercy is not injustice. Mercy does not negate justice. Mercy recognizes the weight of sin. It does not minimize it.
- Because of the consequences of sin, mercy is essential. – The parable of the unforgiving servant. (Matt. 18:21-35)

### God Has Gone to Great Effort to Provide Forgiveness

- The elements of the Lord's Supper testify to the fact that forgiveness did not take place in a vacuum.
- Forgiveness is possible only because of the death of Jesus.
- The sacrifices of the OT were repeated because they were unable to remove the stain of sin. (Heb. 9:22-28) They only covered them.
- God didn't just choose to forgive sin.
- God forgives because the penalty of sin was paid for in Jesus' body. (1 John 2:2)
- God forgives because His wrath towards sin has been satisfied. (Rom. 1:18)
- That wrath didn't just go away, the blood of Jesus took it away.

**Closing:**

1. Sin is a terrible thing and forgiveness is not a simple matter.
2. For God to forgive required the sacrifice of Jesus. Do we appreciate the cost forgiveness entails?