

**Secrets, Un-forgiveness and Kingdom
Matthew 6**

Cell Notes

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- The Secret Place with Father God
- The Challenge of Unforgiveness
- Kingdom of God past, present and future

The Secret Place with the Father

In verses 4, 6 and 18 Jesus repeats the word secret. Secret is a word ruined by current culture, often meaning something evil or unsavoury. Celebrity secrets in the papers etc. But here secret is a precious, intimate Biblical word

Jesus here says a staggering thing that ordinary people can come to their God as Father. A radical change from the Old Testament 6:6, 6:9. Jesus through His death on the cross and resurrection was Himself making a way for all people to be able to address God as Father. [John 20:17](#)

God is a perfect Father. Jesus can set you free by the power of His Holy Spirit. You can know the pure love and acceptance of your Heavenly Father. We can now enjoy the secret place with Him. [Psalm 27:1-6](#)

Christianity is not about religion it's about a relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Available today!

The Challenge of Unforgiveness

[Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Matthew 6:12](#)
[For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matt 6:14 - 15](#)

Unforgiveness is the drag anchor that holds Christians back in spiritual growth and effectiveness. If you are a born again Christian you are saved and loved unconditionally. You are accepted by Gods amazing grace, an undeserved gift. Jesus modelled forgiveness.

If our security is in Him then despite the pain, we can by his grace come to a place of forgiving those who have wronged us. The Holy Spirit helps us.

For some carrying a sense of injustice and hurt becomes a secure and self centred place. As Christians we are now dead to sin and alive in Christ. We are all fallen flesh, redeemed sinners who by His grace are now saints and part of His family. Jesus starts the Lords prayer with 'Our', not 'Father we' As tough as it is Gods best for us is for us to be together and that means we must choose to forgive and live lives of graciousness towards one another.

In the story of Jacob and Esau in Genesis chapters 25 to 33 we see how God gets hold of a scheming man called Jacob. After years of manipulation he comes to a point of hopelessness. Many years later Jacob knew that Esau was coming to kill him. One night he was alone and wrestled with God and in the morning limped in weakness & fear towards certain death. However, Esau

met him & forgave him & they were restored. What Jacob had feared became the most precious moment of his life. Then Jacob says something amazing;

No, please! Said Jacob. If I have found favour in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably. Genesis 33:10

Just forgive and be reconciled. You may even encounter God's face!
We have been forgiven much, so forgive. Matthew 18:21 – 35
Forgiveness leads to worship, freedom and release. Luke 7:40–50

Anxiety and fear flood in when we are trying to control our own lives and those of others. (Matthew 6:25 – 34) Jesus says consider your Heavenly Fathers provision. God brings not only perspective but provision. It's all from Him.

Kingdom of God; Past, Present and Future

Jesus tells us that Gods Kingdom is our top priority. Matthew 6:33
The Kingdom of God is;

- General - Psalm 47:2, 103:19
- Eternal - Psalm 145:13
- Covenantal - Genesis 12-13, Exodus 19:6
- Prophesied - Isaiah 9:6-7, 40:10
- Realised in Jesus - Isaiah 49:7, Matthew 2:1-2
- Present - Matthew 13:11, Matthew 12:22 - 28
- Future - Leviticus 9:7, Mark 9:1, Book of Revelation

The Kingdom of God is about Gods rule, authority, dominion and reign. That is past and future. However, Jesus encourages us to pray *today*; Let your Kingdom come (i.e. now) The inference is that it won't come if we don't ask. Lets bring in Gods Kingdom into our lives, families, decisions & relationships. A trait of Gods Kingdom is for us to be salt and light. (Ollie's word last week).

Action Points

Set aside 20 minutes of agenda free time before God. Worship Him and be still before Him. Share with others at Cell how you got on!

Is there a Christian, non- Christian or neighbour that I am yet to forgive? Do it!

Cell Questions/discussion Points

- What changes have I made to my lifestyle and choices following Ollie's word on salt and light?
- How can Matthew 6:7 affect my personal and our corporate prayer life?
- Where is my secret place and what is it anyway?
- How would I encourage a Christian who had been deeply hurt to forgive? Do I even have the right to 'interfere'?
- As new people are drawn to us, how would I encourage a non-Christian who had been deeply hurt to forgive? Do I even have the right to 'interfere'?
- Share a recent example of a kingdom decision you have made.