



**SERMON OUTLINE - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2017**

(LORD'S PRAYER sermon series)

## The Hallway

### *Grace Received, Grace Given*

(Matthew 6:12 –

*“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”*)

**INTRODUCTION:** *World's worst jobs –  
how about “debt collector”??*

#### I. **TOO MANY OF US HAVE SPENT TIME DEBT COLLECTING**

- A. What are you going to do with those people *in your debt*?
- B. In this petition of the Lord's Prayer we are reminded of **the grace we have received & the grace we are to then give** (Matthew 6:12)
- C. In the **hallway** of God's great house, we will “bump into others” & wounds will result
- D. *The bear & the skunk – “the high cost of getting even”*

#### II. **THERE IS A HIGH COST OF GETTING EVEN... OF *COLLECTING OUR DEBTS***

- A. You pay a price relationally  
*(like the lonely life of a “bounty hunter”)*
- B. You pay a price physically (Job 5:2 – “Resentment kills a fool”; Job 18:4 – “You tear yourself to pieces in anger”)
- C. *The old “Amos & Andy” comedy routine – wearing a bottle of nitro glycerin around my neck*

#### III. **DEBT COLLECTING CAN STOP AS WE PRAY & UNDERSTAND *FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS***

- A. This prayer does not mean we earn our forgiveness **by** giving forgiveness
- B. That understanding contradicts the rest of Holy Scripture (Ephesians 2:8)
- C. Forgiveness is free to us but costly to God (John 3:16; 1 John 4:19)
- D. In the *Catechism* Martin Luther explains that our forgiveness of others is a result of God forgiving us: “*Lord, forgive us our debts as then we will forgive our debtors*”
- E. Seeing the price paid on the cross for our forgiveness, we are empowered to forgive others (Psalm 130:3-4; Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 4:19)
- F. Lack of forgiveness causes us to pay a high price spiritually (it gets in the way of our relationship with God *(like my young children with their father)*)
- G. But confession & forgiveness heals the relationship (Psalm 32:1)

**CONCLUSION:** *Forgiveness healed a marriage two weeks before death . . .  
let us walk down God's hallway . . .*

*grace received, grace given*