



## LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

*This is part 8 of the PrayER – Learning From Jesus How To Pray sermon series*

### SUMMARY

God knew that as we make our way through life that there would be certain elements and circumstances that would come into our life that were simply greater than we are. His solution to the problems of our life was to make Himself and His resources available to His people. The means by which we can tap into the presence, the provisions, and the power of God is prayer, and yet, most of prayer lives are struggling to show any signs of life. In this series of thoughts, we are taking our prayer life to the emergency where we will learn from the Great Physician how to pray.

### REVIEW

In this study, we're journeying through the model prayer and we're discovering how to pray. So far, we've considered the following:

We looked at the phrase "...Our Father which art in Heaven..." and we found that when we pray, we should pray according to our **ADOPTION**, according to our Father's **AUTHORITY**, and according to a right **AFFECTION**.

We looked at the phrase "...Hallowed be thy name..." and we found that our prayers should consist of two parts: the **VERTICAL** part (our relationship with God) and the **HORIZONTAL part** (our relationship with the world around us). Prayer is more than just a way for us to **GET**

**SOMETHING FROM GOD**; prayer is a way for us to **GIVE SOMETHING TO GOD**. We give God glory when we recognize the holiness of God when we enter into His presence.

We looked at the phrase “...*Thy kingdom come...*” and we found that it is an expression of the heart that desires for the **WORD** of God and the **WORK** of God to become a reality.

We looked at the phrase “...*Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven...*” and we found that the goal of our prayer life must be our surrender to the Lord’s will. There is nothing that we **WANT** that is more important than God’s **WILL** for our life – **NOTHING!**

This marked a shift in the model prayer from the vertical (our relationship with God) to the horizontal (our relationship with the world around us). We found that the latter portion of this model prayer is focused on the needs of our life: our **PROVISIONS**, our **PARDON** (forgiveness), our **PROTECTION**, and our **PRAISE-GIVING**.

We looked at the phrase “...*Give us this day our daily bread...*” and we found that God is a good God and that He is ready and willing to give good things to His children. He cares about the **DESIRES** of our heart, He cares about the details of our life, and He cares about the day-to-day needs of our life (physically and spiritually), and we should bring **ALL** of them to Him in prayer.

We looked at the phrase “...*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...*” and we found that our prayer life is not simply the **EXPRESSION** of what is going on in our life, nor is it simply **ENTREATING** God for things that we want or need. Our prayer life is first and foremost to be an **EXAMINATION** of what is going on in our mind, in our heart, and in our life and whether or not those things match up with what is pleasing to the Lord. We are to consider the sin that is in our life – we categorized them as **UNINTENTIONAL DEBTS**, **INTENTIONAL DEBTS**, and **NEGLIGENT DEBTS** – and we are to confess them to our Father Who is ready and willing to forgive us restoring both our fellowship with God and our function before God.

## MESSAGE

Matthew 6:9-15 says, “*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”

If you’re in the habit of marking things in the Word of God, I’d like to draw your attention to verse 13 where the Bible says, “*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...*”

For a few moments, I’d like to consider this thought: **LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.**

As we've gone through this model prayer, while all of this prayer is important, we have been met with some sections that have impacted us in a specific way.

In this prayer, we have considered the most **DIFFICULT** portion of this prayer to pray - "*...Thy will be done...*"

In this prayer, we have considered the most **CONVICTING** portion of this prayer to pray - "*...Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...*"

And now, in this prayer, we are considering what is perhaps the most **PERPLEXING** portion of this prayer to pray (at least until we understand it)– "*...Lead us not into temptation...*"

I did not include the second portion of this petition, because we understand better, and we more frequently pray the second portion of this petition than we do the first part of this petition.

Now, if we're going to understand this petition, then we are first going to have to take the time to discover what the words of this petition mean.

The word *lead* means "to bring, to lead, or to carry into a place, time, or season for a particular purpose."

The word *temptation* is a word that is used in at least two different ways: (1) it is used to mean the allurements, or enticements, to do that which is wrong and (2) it is used to mean a trial or a test that is designed to reveal weaknesses and to increase strength.

The word *deliver* means "to rescue; to point; to protect; to preserve." It has the idea of a strong current that carries something or someone away from where it or they were.

The word *evil* means "that which is hurtful; painful." It has the idea of something that is produced within us that does not align with God's plan and purpose for our life, something that is not, that does not, and that cannot please God.

Now that we understand what the words that make up this petition mean, we need to start to put them back together in order to comprehend what this request is really for.

Let's first come back to the phrase *Lead us*. The word *lead* here is not the usual word that is used which means "to direct, or to give instructions to." This phrase *lead us* is one that implies a very personal involvement and assistance. It's the idea of a shepherd leading his sheep. He isn't just pointing out the way that the sheep are to go; He is walking with his sheep in the way that they should go. Sounds a lot like Psalm 23, doesn't it?

Psalm 23:1-3 says, "*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*"

I'm **GRATEFUL** that Jesus is my **SAVIOUR**, but I'm **GLAD** that Jesus is my **SHEPHERD**. Why? Because, as I journey through this life, if I'm as honest with myself as I should be, I need help. The truth of the matter is that I don't always know the direction that I am supposed to go, I don't always know how to find the green pastures, and I don't always know how to get to the still waters. I need a guide. I need someone who can direct me in a good and right way. Jesus isn't just willing to be our Shepherd, He is the Good and Great Shepherd.

There's more to this truth. This phrase *lead us* has the idea of a shepherd that is walking alongside the sheep as they make their way through a dark valley that is filled with dangers. Sounds again like Psalm 23, doesn't it?

Psalm 23:4-5 says, *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies..."*

Here's the reality: not everything in this life is pleasant. We live in a fallen, sinful world and we often deal with fallen, sinful world problems. On top of that, we have a very real enemy that wants to utilize those problems to promote the wrongs that are hidden in our heart and to pull us away from the path that Jesus is leading us on.

Now that brings us to the full statement: *"And lead us not into temptation..."* We already established that the word *temptation* can mean both an enticement or allurement to do something that is wrong, but it can also mean a test or a trial. What makes the difference? The difference is the **CONTEXT** of the passage, and the difference is our **RESPONSE**.

The Bible makes it very clear that God is not the author of confusion and God is not the source of temptation.

James 1:13-14 says, *"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed..."*

God never tempts us with evil. He does not want us to sin. He wants our faith in Him to be strong enough that we trust Him to protect us, to give us peace, to point us in the way that we should go, to provide for us what we need, and to preserve us through the dangers and difficulties.

God often allows adversity to reveal weakness in our faith and to strengthen, or temper, our faith.

1 Peter 4:12-13 says, *"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy..."*

Job 23:10 says, *“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”*

Let me say it this way: If God allowed Jesus to be led into the wilderness, as Matthew says, and driven into the wilderness as Mark says to be tested by the Devil for forty days and forty nights, then we too will go through seasons where our faith needs to go through **INSPECTIONS** and through **IMPROVEMENTS**. What must not fail to forget that our enemy wants to turn those tests into temptations.

Now, why should we pray that God not lead us into temptation? Because of the difficulties that accompany temptation. We are to flee temptation, and we should pray as such. It is better to not be tempted, than it is to be tempted and to fall into sin. However, when it comes to our purpose and God’s plan for our life, it is better for us to be tempered and strengthened in our faith so that we can be courageous and remain committed in and through what is coming our way and for the tasks that God has planned for us to accomplish next.

Someone has described the person praying this portion of this prayer as “a sinner in danger of being a greater sinner still.” I think that’s an excellent description, but it’s also the reason for the second portion – *“...but deliver us from evil...”*

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 says, *“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*

Here’s a wonderful truth: God knows how to lead us through temptation, and God has the ability to both **LIMIT** and to **DELIVER US OUT** of our temptations.