

Deliver Us From Evil (The Evil One)
Matthew 6:13
Jeremiah 15: 19-21
Psalm 56:10 & 13
Archibald Wallace
7th in the Series on the Lord's Prayer

As we begin this morning, let us review briefly The Lord's Prayer that we have been considering in this Sermon Series.

1 It is not intended for the casual passer-by of Christ, nor those wavering or not really committed to Christ. This is a believer's prayer. It is meant to be prayed by those who are totally committed to Christ.

2. It is meant to be prayed—every day.

3. It is like a pledge of allegiance—saying to God daily. Here I am, your servant, and I will come to you daily using words that speak to my condition as a believer, in awe of my God, the one and only God, and in need of God's daily attention, that I might grow and get better in my practice as a disciple and apostle of God.

4. It has two parts—the first reminds us of the God we serve; One God, whose name is special, yet is our father, One God, whose kingdom has begun here, One God whose will and whose plan is the final word; the second reminds us we need to grow daily, grow spiritually, we need to forgive, and we must be helped to succeed when temptations come.

4. And, we must remember, the prayer is not new; everything Jesus includes has one or more specific references in the Hebrew Bible (The Old Testament). What Jesus did was to pull the pieces together from God's word and say, "since you are believers, pray this."

5. It's a serious prayer; it should not be used casually or ritually. and it should not be prayed unless you mean it.

Knowing this, let's turn to Matthew 6:13 and hear God speak to us of one last thing we must do as believers:

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil (the evil one).

The Word Of The Lord!

There are some who question whether there is a devil, if the devil is real. Can't see the devil, they say. But, consider this: Were any of you out this week, on Thursday? The winds blew. Tornados were imminent. Rain was crashing down. Lightning was crackling and thunder quickly followed. For a while it was touch and go, and it was scary, and my prayer was for deliverance. Remembering that day I ask, did you see the wind? I mean actually see the wind? Not what the wind was causing, but could you see the wind? Of course not! If you couldn't see it, doesn't that mean it didn't exist? Are we so into physical proof to believe in something, that we have to see it to believe it? Do you really doubt that wind exists? Or, cCan you see love? You can see the results of love, but can you actually see it? And if you can't see it, does that mean it doesn't exist?

The Scripture we just read of delivering us from the evil one has been challenged by some naysayers as saying we're not asking for anything real. They say, if you can't see it, then there isn't a devil, an evil one. Tell that to Jesus. After forty days of fasting, Jesus saw the devil, and was tested by the devil and resisted the devil in Luke 4. In his prayer Jesus tells us to pray to be delivered from the evil one and Jesus knows – the devil is for real, the devil actually exists. In fact, the devil is all around us, everywhere we are, but not where we are going in our eternal life with Christ.

A second implicit thing embedded in Jesus' prayer for us. The devil is personal and can take a million forms. For each one of us, the devil comes differently. For Adam and Eve the Devil was a snake. For King David the devil was a naked woman taking a bath on a roof top below the royal palace. For Judas the devil was 30 pieces of silver. For Absalom, David's son, the devil was power and a crown, as he tried to overthrow his father, King David.

You say that was then, but things are different now. No, they're not. I submit the devil tempts us not to care for those who need help or are hurting. And, it is the devil that tells us to label people instead of loving them as individuals, or to take advantage of others, or to gossip about others, or to do something contrary to God's moral standards. The devil is alive, the devil is here, and the devil is personal and knows just how to get your attention.

The devil is good at what he does and maybe you'll see yourself in some of these examples.

The devil can get us to stand for the sanctity of life in an unborn child but cause us to look the other way when life is taken with a gun.

The devil can get us to demean others and hate them just because they look different, dress different, talk different, vote different.

The devil is into everything that is evil, and he waits there for us to bite. It's like we are fish, and the bait of bigotry or racism or materialism is dangling right there before us, and we bite, and we are hooked.

I submit to you that whenever an act or a failure to act causes harm to another, or distresses another, or brings suffering or calamity to another, evil is there and so is the devil.

Something else is apparent about this pool called life that we live in like the fish, that it is full of things and acts and thoughts that can take us over and rule us or push into behavior and thoughts that are by definition evil. And like the fish in a pool, we cannot avoid the evil, nor can we escape from the pool by our own efforts. The prayer teaches that we are to call on our Father to deliver us from the evil one and the evil place, because we can't do it by ourselves. The word deliver literally means in the Greek "to Snatch." God, we pray, snatch us from this pool of the devil's making and put us on the dry land called "Thy Kingdom." Otherwise, we will be doomed to swim among the nastiness and the hate and the harm the devil has spread across this world.

Even Jesus in his testing showed he could not be delivered by himself; in each instance he quoted God's word and the devil changed the subject. Jesus went to the wisdom of God to tell the devil –NO. No, NO.

Let's look at this again. Delivering us can't happen, unless we first do several things"

- 1 We have to acknowledge that the devil is out to get us committed to him
- 2 We have to acknowledge that God has given us a system of order and moral norms to live by and that God's order is far better than the devil's chaos

- 3 We have to realize when we have temptation before us or when we have gone over the line, and we have to confess our shortcomings and express our need and willingness to repent.
- 4 We have to believe in God and that God's way is of love, while the devil's way is of hate.
- 5 We must give ourselves and subject ourselves to God. How? By knowing God's word and by not entering the battle with Satan alone.

Deliver us, means we want God to protect us and rescue us spiritually.

Deliver us, means we want to be taken from the path of destruction we are walking to travel on God's interstate to life with God forever.

Deliver us, means we can see what the devil is doing to us and knowing we need to change quickly, abruptly.

Deliver us, means we can see brothers and sisters being destroyed by the devil and know that we can pray that they can become aware of the evil that controls them and can become alive to the love of God that awaits, if they will but call.

Deliver us, means we want to change and we are willing to let God take us by the hand.

Deliver us, means we know we have to fight the lures of the devil, and that we are to go armed, armed with the Word. Would you really take a knife to a gun fight?

The devil awaits us all, and wants us all, but each of us can put the devil to flight and grow as Christians --if we will but pray --delver us from evil--and all the rest of the Believer's Prayer, and mean all of it when we pray.

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1st Chronicles 29:10-11

- 10 David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,
Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.
- 11 Yours Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
For everything in heaven and earth is ours.
Yours, Lord, is the kingdom, you are the ruler of all things

Jeremiah 15:19 – 21

19 Therefore this is what the Lord says:

If you repent, I will restore you, that you may serve me.

If you utter worthy, not worthless words, you will be my spokesman.

21 I will save you from the hands of the wicked one and deliver you from the grasp of the evil one.

Psalm 56:10 & 13

10 In God whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid.
What can man do to me?

13 For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God
in the light of life.