

Sermon Notes

When We Pray, Pray This Way

#6 – “Bread and Forgiveness, Yes, But Do Not Forget Temptation”

Matthew 6:13a

I. Introduction

A. The challenge of Temptation.

1. From the mundane to the serious.

B. Jesus’ model for prayer also includes “temptation.”

1. There are many temptations that we face each day.

C. Today’s text.

1. “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil” – Matthew 13a.
2. There are three petitions in the prayer and this is the third.

II. Exposition.

A. “Temptation”

1. Greek meaning is neutral – not necessarily evil.
“Testing” or “Proving”
2. Contrast to English “tempt” typically carries a bad sense.
3. Theological matters
 - a. James 1:13; James 1:2-3; Genesis 22:1
 - b. MacArthur statement
 - c. Pastor Don’s sense on the meaning.
 - d. A paradox of Scripture
 1. Trials or testing are a means of growth, while we do not desire to enter into them.

B. “Evil”

1. Translation variant.
 - a. “Evil” or “Evil One” – both are correct.
 - b. Calvin.

- c. The concern is over who is behind or encouraging all evil? – Satan.

2. The assault on the child of God.

- a. The devil – Ephesians 6:12; I Peter 5:8
- b. The world – John 15:9
- c. The flesh – Romans 7:23; Galatians 5:17

III. Insights on this petition.

A. A request to increase our S____-D_____.

1. We should be terrified over the prospect of sin.
2. No room for confidence in the flesh.
 - a. Power perfected in weakness.
3. This needs to be an important part of our requests to God because Jesus included it in His prayer.

B. Nothing the function of evil.

1. Satan – Hebrew means adversary, however it can apply to a human being – I Sam. 29:4; I Kings 5:4; II Sam. 19:22
 - a. A prosecuting angel – Job 1:6.
2. New Testament change with “Devil.”
 - a. Diabolos – meaning slanderer.
3. No definitive information on the origin of Satan or Devil.
4. God is not the author of evil, but he does ordain it.
 - a. Westminster Confession, Section 3.1

IV. Point for Reflection

- A. “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” means acknowledging our utter dependence upon God.
- B. All of us have weak spots, which without a guard posted, can lead to ruin.
- C. This part of the prayer reminds us that we are engaged in a war 24 hours a day.
- D. When we pray “do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,” we also declare that we submit to His Word which is our protection from sin.