

J.J.

MASTER'S DEGREE IN PRAYER

Matthew 6:5-13

INTRODUCTION

There was a man who was on his way to church. While on his way, he found a wallet that is full of cash. He looked up into heaven and said to God "Lord, Is this a temptation or answer to my prayer?"

Today will continue with our Master's Degree in Prayer

Matthew 6: 5 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this:

*"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.*

*10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,*

on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread

12 and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,

15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Pray

QUICK REVIEW

What is prayer?

Etymology : proseuchomai "pros" and "euchomai"

Pros (preposition) towards, near "euchomai" pray to God

Prayer is going near to God. "Lumalapit ka sa Dios".

To the people of God, PRAYER IS PRIORITY ONE.

And this is how our Lord taught the disciples how to pray.

People call this The Lord's prayer but this is supposed to be The Disciples Prayer.

Luke 11 : One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his

disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

And more than reciting this, it should serve as a guide when we pray.

We already discussed

- I. THE RIGHT ATTITUDE WHEN PRAYING**
- II. THE RIGHT APPROACH TO PRAYING**
- III. THE RIGHT APPEAL WHEN PRAYING.**

1. Provision

11 Give us this day our daily bread

By this alone, our Lord is teaching us that we should regularly connect with God knowing that we depend on Him.

2. Peace/Pardon

*12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,
15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

3. Protection

*13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

Etymology : temptation “pierasmos” it can be translated as trials or an enticement to sin.

In this case, based on the context, temptation here means, “an enticement to sin.”

Temptation is NOT sin but it’s an “enticement to sin.”

Why can we say that the meaning here is temptation and not trial?

It’s because it was preceded by *and forgive us our debts,*

And I explained to you last week, that debts and trespasses mean “sin”.

And sin simply means to disobey God.

Why is our Lord teaching us to ask God to pray, “lead us not into temptation.”?

Before we answer this, let me tell you, by God’s grace

First what it doesn’t mean.

Second I tell you what it means.

First, It doesn't mean that God tempts us.

God never tempts us.

James 1:13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

God never tempts anyone to sin. It is not who He is. He is holy, holy, holy and his intentions are always pure.

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

Illustration : Men have twisted logic when they fall into sin.

There was this man who was asking the Lord for a job. And then the Lord gave him a job. But in that job, he met a woman whom he had an affair. Because of that he lost his job, and then of course his wife and his kids left him and his life was now in shambles. So one time, he talked to his pastor about his situation and said to the pastor, "If God didn't give me that job, I wouldn't be in this situation right now."

God doesn't tempt us. It's not God's fault when we fall into sin.

Some people say, "The devil made me do it."

It wasn't the devil who put the fruit into Eve's mouth. The devil tempted her but it was Eve who took the fruit. Adam blames the wife but he was the one who ate the apple. It's not Eve who ate the apple.

Genesis 3: 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

When it comes to sin, there's no one to blame but ourselves.

Illustration : Dr. John Izzo who was an author of the book Stepping Up was telling a story about this regional bank in Georgia, called Synovus. It was once named the Best Place to Work in America and continues to be among the top places to work in America. He asked the CEO, what's their secret? The CEO said the power of love. We love our customers. We love our employees. We love our work. That's nice. So he went around the bank and he saw the buttons in the employees uniform and there it's written **100/0**. He asked one of the employees what it means and the employee explained that it's their motto. It means 100% Responsibility and 0 excuses.

When it comes to sin, we were the ones who made the choice to fall into temptation.

Which brings us to the second question, “What does *lead us not into temptation*” mean?

Note : You have to remember that temptation is all around us.

When we wake up in the morning, there’s already temptation to start the day without God. There’s already the temptation to be anxious or to worry. There’s the temptation to be lazy.

At work, school or at home, there’s temptation to be impatient and to lose your temper. There’s the temptation to gossip. There’s the temptation to lust. When you look at Facebook, there’s the temptation to judge other people. There’s the temptation to be prideful and to brag. Everywhere around us there’s temptation. It’s because we live in a sinful and fallen world and we still have our sinful nature.

When we pray to our Father, “*lead us not into temptation.*” We’re asking him:

1. **For us to recognize the temptation for what it is.**

Remember, temptation is “enticement to sin” and sin is disobeying God.

It’s because most of the time, the reason we fall into sin is because we are looking at how good the fruit is. We are seeing at the pleasure it will bring or we are seeing at what the solution it will bring.

Biblical Illustration : When the devil was tempting Eve, look at what happened.

Genesis 3: 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.

You have to remember this... the fruit of the tree of knowledge IS NOT A BAD THING!

But Eve was focused on looking at the benefits of having the fruit SHE FOCUSED ON THE FRUIT INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON GOD’S WORD! i

That’s what temptation really is, it is the enticement lose your focus on God eventually to disobey God.

Examples :

You are tempted to have sex with a person you're not married to. You focus on the pleasure of sex but it's really an enticement to disobey God.

You are tempted to withhold your offering to God because of all the things that money can buy, but it's really a temptation not to trust in God and recognize that everything belongs to God.

You are tempted to slander another person because it feels good to feel superior than others, but it's really an enticement to disobey God.

REMEMBER THIS : TEMPTATION IS AN ENTICEMENT TO PULL YOU AWAY FROM GOD.

Biblical Illustration : He saw Bathsheba taking a bath. His focus was turned on having Bathsheba, even if knowing that Bathsheba is married, even if his men are in the battlefield fighting a war. **And this is even David was called "a man after God's own heart."** Temptation is an enticement to pull you away from God.

*James 1: 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.
15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.*

16 So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters

That's why our Lord said to His disciples.

Matthew 26: 41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Yes, the Lord knows we want to obey Him and temptation makes us focus on the pleasure of sin which is in our flesh rather than obeying Him. That's why our Lord said, *"Watch..."* make sure you are aware of what temptation really is and *"pray..."* ask God for help to help you not fall into temptation."

2. To help us escape the temptation

Remember, temptation is a very powerful force that by ourselves we cannot escape.

It needs drastic action in order to escape it.

Our Lord said,

Matthew 18 : 7 Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is

better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

Look at the word the Bible uses when faced with temptation.

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality.

1 Corinthians 10: 14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry

Remember, idolatry is something you prioritize or consider more important than God. Some of us make work our idols...we think it's more important than God.

That's why Paul says to Timothy :

1 Timothy 6: 9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

11 But you, man of God, flee from all this,

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth

Etymology : evil desires "lust" epithymia... it's a desire for something forbidden.

Anything that easily entices young people; sex, drugs, rebellion to authority

Remember, Paul says to FLEE...away from these temptations.

Etymology : flee in "pheugo" pronounced fyoo go... so when you see encounter temptation...OFF YOU GO!

LISTEN CAREFULLY, you only flee from something that will potentially harm you.

The Bible doesn't say, "Walk away from temptation.." It says, "Flee!!!"

Examples : You don't walk away from a lion that's going to attack you... you don't walk away from a burning building...YOU FLEE...WHY? BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T FLEE, IT WILL HARM YOU.

And if you flee, here's what God says :

1 Corinthians 10 : 13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Remember, the context here is not about trials but TEMPTATION WHICH IS an enticement to disobey God.

And when you FLEE, YOU ARE CHOOSING TO OBEY GOD...AND GOD WILL PROVIDE YOU A WAY OUT OF THAT TEMPTATION.

3. To show us the right way

When we are praying to our Father *"lead us not into temptation."* It also shows to say, that God show us what we need to do.

That's why the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 23

*Psalm 23: 3 He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.*

Remember, as I mentioned earlier, we are surrounded by temptation and sometimes we think there's no way out...that's why when we pray to our Father lead us not into temptation we are also asking him to show us the way we should go.

That's why JESUS SAID, "I AM THE WAY"

NOW by God's grace, as promised earlier THE QUESTION IS, Why did Jesus teach them to pray, "Lead us not into temptation."

1. It is only with our Father's help that we can defeat temptation.

We cannot defeat temptation on our own.

That's why our Lord said,

Matthew 26: 41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Look at Paul's testimony :

Romans 7: 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

So how can we defeat this?

24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

2. It shows our Father our desire for holiness.

Look again, we have to interpret this based on the context.

It says,

12 and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,

FORGIVE US OUR SINS - Our desire for holiness shows when we sin we immediately ask God for forgiveness.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION - And when we ask God to lead us not into temptation, we are showing God we want to be with Him, obey Him.

We desire His fellowship. We desire Him above all else.

That's why I shared with you, one of the secrets of temptation is saying to Him, "Lord, I love you more than I love sin."

3. It shows our dependence on God to defeat temptation.

Again, this is based on the context again.

11 Give us this day our daily bread

12 and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation

Remember, the prayer of the missionary I shared last Sunday.

I came across a little prayer in a magazine, headed: "A Morning Prayer for Help" - note that I said "morning"! "Dear God, so far today I've done alright, I haven't gossiped, lost my temper, been nasty or selfish. But in a few minutes God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on, I'm going to need all the help I can get."

(Lou Nicholes - Missionary/Author).

We know that without God, we are going to be helpless against temptation that why we pray to Him daily to lead us not into temptation.

Illustration :

A survey of Discipleship Journal readers ranked areas of greatest spiritual challenge to them:

1. Materialism.
2. Pride.
3. Self-centeredness.
4. Laziness.
5. (Tie) Anger/Bitterness.
5. (Tie) Sexual lust.
7. Envy.
8. Gluttony.
9. Lying.

Survey respondents noted **temptations were more potent when they had neglected their time with God** (81 percent) and when they were physically tired (57 percent).

Resisting temptation was accomplished by prayer (84 percent), avoiding compromising situations (76 percent), **Bible study** (66 percent), and being accountable to someone (52 percent).

REMEMBER THIS : TEMPTATION IS AN ENTICEMENT TO PULL YOU AWAY FROM GOD.

Remember what I said last week, as a Christian when we sin, we don't lose the relationship but we lose the fellowship, the intimacy with God **and when we are far away from God, you are easy pickings.**

That's why next week, we'll tackle by God's grace.

but deliver us from evil.

Let me end with this by God's grace,

DDT - (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) it is the main chemical for insecticide – to drive away pests

Temptation is like a mosquito during summer...it's like a pest.

Our Lord taught us to pray to our Father , “lead us not into temptation” because He knows it's only with DDDT that we can drive away sin.

What is DDDT?

Daily Dependence Defeats Temptation.

When we are daily depending on Him, we have more success in defeating temptation in our lives.

S.G.D.