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Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
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The Lord's Prayer
6 – Deliver Us from Evil



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During the season of Lent, we have reflected on the Lord's Prayer. Now, after Easter, we have two final studies to complete, this week and next. The Lord's Prayer is the example for talking to God the Father that Jesus gave to the disciples, and to us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our **daily** bread. **And** forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. **And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from all evil.** For thine is the kingdom, the power and glory forever. Amen.

And Lead us not into Temptation ... **But Deliver us from Evil**

This part of our prayer starts with the word "And."
Just before this, we have meditated on two daily needs:
bread for strength and guidance,
and forgiveness for ourselves and those who trespass against us.

“And” now we address a third daily need – how to deal with temptation.

This we need to understand: that Satan tempts us by false promises, but the Lord tests us and accepts and forgives us when we confess. God cannot be a creator of evil because he is always good. God would never like to see a person spending his life in sin. He said, “I have come that they may have life and have it to the full,” including eternal life (John 10:10b). When God wants to test us, he puts some burden on us but the intention for us is good. But when Satan tempts us his intention is to destroy us and make us his slave. John 10:10a “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.”

In the life of a Christian, he or she faces lot of struggles, such as – how to overcome evil? It is not easy to get safely through this tainted, poisonous and corrupt world. The Bible instructs us on how to face and avoid these three kinds of temptations.

1 John 2:16: “For everything in the world –

the cravings of sinful man,

the lust of his eyes

and the boasting of what he has and does

– comes not from the Father but from the world.”

1. The cravings of sinful man – Desire for the world. We read in the gospels how the Tempter first tempted our Lord Jesus. Jesus was preparing for his public ministry and had gone through a period of fasting and prayer for forty days and nights. The Tempter said to the Lord, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread,” (Matthew 4:3). He knew Jesus was hungry and needed bread. Satan looks for opportunities and uses our weaknesses to pound on us by enticing us to trap us in his net. Look, how did Jesus tackle this approach? Jesus

answered, “It is written, ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

How much we need the Word of God to overcome the temptation of Satan!

2. The lust of the eyes. How much are we tied to Internet and TV. Advertisement companies spend millions of dollars to attract people so that we will look at them and buy their products. In today's world, one is willing to spend anything to gain fame.

Paul writes to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 6:12, “‘Everything is permissible for me’ – but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible for me’ – but I will not be mastered by anything.”

Satan tried this kind of temptation in the very beginning in the Garden of Eden. He tempted Eve by attracting her eyes towards his offer.

Genesis 3:6, “When the woman **saw** that 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.” The result was that they fell into temptation and were driven out from the presence of God. They broke the covenant with their God and Creator and disobeyed his Word.

Paul says to young Timothy after one of their missionary colleagues left him, “For Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica,” (2 Timothy 4:10).

Satan came back again to tempt Jesus, asking him to test God’s word.

“Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone,”’” (Matthew 4:5-6). Satan twists the word of God and tempts us to obey the devil. If you do not know the whole truth and the context of the Scripture, you may fall and be trapped. Many times we deliberately do unwise things, and when we fall into a bad situation, we expect God to rescue us and take us out of it. Jesus had to remind the devil as well as us, that it is also written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” Cult leaders often use this tactic, quoting a part of scripture separated from the rest, and basing their doctrine on it. Read the full context and you will understand: IT IS ALSO WRITTEN.

3. The Pride of Life. Jesus taught the disciples and others with parables, so people could easily understand. This parable is found in Luke 12:13-21. It is known as the parable of rich fool.

He said to them “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

A rich man produced good crops and imagined he should extend his barns. Notice the ‘I’ in these:

“I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones.”

“I will store all my grains and goods there.”

“I will say to myself, ‘You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

But God said to him “Tonight your life will be demanded from you. Who will use all you have stored for yourself?”

One must be rich toward God and not only towards goods.

Once again, we read that Satan came to the Lord, a third time. Look how persistent he is. If this is how he tried to tempt Jesus, how much he will try his tricks on us?

Matthew 4:8-9 “This time the devil took him to the top of the mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘If you will bow down and worship me.’”

Let us understand how Jesus confronted the devil. Matthew 4:10-11, “Jesus said to him. ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”’ Satan left him for a while.”

Please remember that Satan does not have authority, but he encroaches on this power and tries to cheat the disciples of Christ. Jesus said this to his disciples and empowered them, “All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me ... therefore go ... and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age,” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Consider this, from *The Way* by E Stanley Jones, American Methodist Christian missionary, theologian, and author:

Consider the next item in the Prayer: “And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” I have inserted the first comma, which is legitimate, since there was no punctuation in the original. That changes the sense. The prayer is for leading – “Lead us.” The rest points to where the leading should be – “not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” This portion of

the Prayer is hardly morally intelligible without the punctuation, for God cannot lead into temptation. At the first sight the Prayer seems to end on a low note. We would have expected some high exultant note. And yet I wonder if the petition itself is not the highest: “Lead us, so that evil is not a temptation to us any longer.” We are to get to the place where we are beyond temptation. That is victory.

The last portion is actually a prayer for deliverance from evil. Not a deliverance from this, that, or the other evil, but from “evil” itself. To Jesus evil was evil in whatever form it came – whether in the evil of the flesh or the evil of the disposition, whether in the individual will or in the corporate will. Evil was never good and good was never evil.” (Pg. 223)

So how do we face temptation?

1. Know and learn the full Scripture. “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work,” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
2. Face the devil with the Word of God. “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you,” (Psalm 119:11).
3. “Resist the devil and he will flee from you,” (James 4:7).
4. “Watch and pray so that you will not enter into temptation. The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak,” (Matthew 26:41).
5. Find a mature believer as a prayer partner and be accountable to that person. When you face temptation call immediately on your prayer partner. If two pray together it becomes powerful weapon against the devil, (Matthew 18:19).