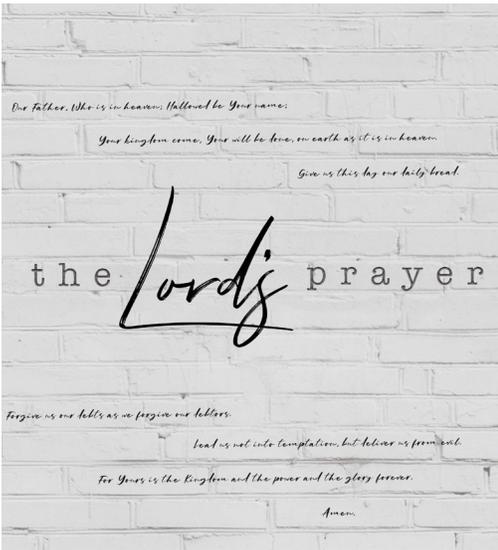


Sermon Growth Guide



August 7, 2022

The Lord's Prayer - Protection

Matthew 6:9-13

Key Verse: Matthew 6:13

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

Big Idea: Jesus invites us to trust God with our protection so that we may live for His glory.

Foundations

The final three petitions of this prayer offer an interesting structure. We've considered bread for today, followed by forgiveness for the past; now Jesus invites us to acknowledge future temptation that might make prayers for forgiveness necessary. These final three petitions also balance our physical, relational and spiritual needs, and speak to God's comprehensive care for us.

The Greek word for “temptation” can also mean “testing.” This seems a more likely reference in light of the admonition in James 1:13 that “God . . . tempts no one.” Whereas the result of temptation can be demoralizing when we give in to it, the result of testing can reveal a greater strength than was previously known (see Genesis 22).

In the final phrase, Jesus teaches us to pray for deliverance from the evil one. This phrase reminds us of the power and influence of Satan, who is constantly seeking to pull us from the loving embrace of our Lord.

When we pray these closing words to the Lord's Prayer, we're professing three things. First, we're professing our trust in where God leads us. Second, we're professing our willingness to follow. And third, we're professing that God ultimately prevails over the forces of evil and darkness.

Understanding God's Word

Together, read Matthew 6:9-13.

What do these concluding words in verse 13 affirm to us about the one to whom we're praying?

How would you best describe the process of temptation that we experience in our lives? How is the process of testing (such as testing a bridge, a promise, or someone's character) different?

Is it easy or difficult for you to believe in the very real presence and influence of Satan in your life? Why?

Applying God's Word

What gives you confidence that God has your good in mind and will not lead you astray?

In what ways do you seek to actively follow God's leading in your life?

Witnessing God's Word

While we join with the larger Christian community in praying the Lord's Prayer each Sunday in worship, we tend to give less thought during the remainder of the week to what we've professed in it.

As we conclude this sermon series, what is one way you can seek to live out the truths and affirmations of this Sunday prayer during the other six days of the week?