

Where Will You Finish if You Stay on Your Present Course?

July 31, 2016 am

Matthew 6:13 *'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'*

1. God is a Guide We Can Trust

This verse has proved a challenge for translators and commentators. What does it mean? In some places the word translated *temptation* is translated *trial*. The Bible says that God may test us, but He does not tempt us.

James 1:13 *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.*

Why would we ask God to not do something He is not going to do? When travelers take long camel trips into the deserts of the Middle East, they must have a guide. The guide knows how to reach the destination. Without a guide the traveling party would probably die. Selecting the right guide must be done with great care. The party must trust the guide and have full confidence that he knows exactly where he is going and will not take risks with their lives. They must feel that the guide is able to cope with any emergency that might arise on the journey.

Bailey's favorite guide was a man they affectionately called, "Uncle Zaki." They would say to him, "Uncle Zaki, don't get us lost." They meant, "We don't know the way to where we are going, and if you get us lost we will all die. We have placed out total trust in your leadership."

They were not saying to Uncle Zaki, "We don't think we can trust you, and are nervous lest you get us lost. Please don't do so." If that had been their view, they never would have started on the journey.

The phrase in the Lord's Prayer expresses the confidence of an earthly pilgrim traveling with a Divine Guide. The journey requires the pilgrims to affirm daily, "Lord, we trust you to guide us, because You alone know the way we must go." Kenneth Bailey, [Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes](#), pp. 128-129

Deliver us from evil or the evil one.

Jesus is teaching us to pray that we will not be led away from God. If God is not our Guide, then who is guiding us? Do we trust ourselves to find the way on our own? We are tempted to be independent. Being independent means we stop following God. Removing yourself from God plunges you into darkness. Declaring independence from God will only result in evil. The second death is to move to a place where there is no God. The worst thing about hell will be the total absence of God.

Temptations come at us from both sides. When things are going well, we are tempted to believe we can get by without God. When things are not going well we are tempted to despair, doubt God, and give up.

Temptations come from within.

Deliver us from evil or the Evil One is a prayer against attacks from the outside. Our enemy would love to do us harm. We have a personal malevolent force that is working against us. The temptation to independence is a call to follow Satan. We pray for deliverance from the influence of the evil one. We can choose to follow God. We have power over Satan in the name of Jesus. We do not have to fall to deceit, temptation, and accusation from Satan.

2. Beware of the good that is not of God

The world is a dangerous place for believers. Dangers that don't have the appearance of dangers are everywhere. Evil that masquerades as an angel of light is commonplace. Temptation almost always appears as good and beautiful.

The fruit in the Garden seemed to be good to Eve and Adam. Adam & Eve were tempted and failed. Jesus was tempted in the desert. Jesus was tempted to make bread, do miracles, rule the world. Making bread is good; performing miracles is good, ruling the world is a good thing. The desert temptations of Jesus were all about doing good. Jesus did not take the bait. He refused to do the seemingly good that was put before Him. Peterson, Tell It Slant, p. 191

Jesus allowed God to define good for Him. For Jesus, good meant denying Himself and dying on the cross. This is exactly what Jesus says we must do if we want to follow Him.

Luke 9:23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Who is defining good in your life? Is it God or our culture? Is it God or your friends? Is it God or your sinful desire to be independent?

This prayer is asking to God help us to realize when we are being tempted with something that looks good, but is really bad. Let us not be lead into temptation and snared by sin. Deliver us from evil. Help us to recognize and resist the lies of the Evil one.

3. Follow the King of kings, not the prince of this world

John 12:31-32 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'

Some early Jewish manuscripts include this phrase and some do not. It is an appropriate part of the prayer.

After descending into our needs, troubles, and limitations, we return to the truth of God's complete sufficiency. Our hearts can rest in the assurance that God is in control and nothing can overcome His Kingdom, power, and glory.

For Thine ***is*** the Kingdom – not Thine ***will be*** the Kingdom. The Kingdom is now.

The power is now. When we get in line with His Kingdom wishes, His power is released in us and through us. God's power is restrained now by His own choice.

2 Peter 3:7 *But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

One day God's power will be fully released. First in judgment, then in re-creation of the world. Look at what comes next in 2 Peter 3

8 *But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

10 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.*

11 *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.*

Everything on earth will be destroyed. Where are you laying up treasure? Are you following Satan who will lose everything, or are you following the King of kings that will rule and reign forever.

Matthew 6:24 *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and [mammon]."*

Mammon is more than money. Mammon speaks of the power and force that money has to influence how you think and the decisions you make. It as if there is a god of money that is pulling us in the wrong direction – away from God.

This passage says you cannot serve two masters. It does not say you should not. You can't **serve** two masters. It is impossible. A servant does what the master tells you to do. There are two forces trying to get you to follow them. They are going in opposite directions. You can only follow one. Money/materialism will influence us in a negative direction if we let it.

Luke 16:10-11 *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"*

Look at v. 11. In God's mind, true riches are not the same as worldly wealth. But how you handle your stuff, including money, is a measure of your spiritual health.

Are you trying to serve two masters? You can only follow one. Where is your priority? Where do you spend most of your time? What do you think about most? Who is your master? Who is your guide? Where will you end up if you stay on your current course?