



Sunday Teaching Guide

Prayer Week 7

February 26, 2023

Bible Texts

- Matthew 6:7-13
- Matthew 4:1-11
- Psalm 23

Important Terms

- Temptation: In Greek, this word means to test, to try, or make trial of.

Sermon Notes

- In the Gospel of Matthew, we see Jesus experiencing the reality of temptation. Jesus experienced physical temptation, emotional temptation, and the temptation for control. Needs, wants, and desires were all there, telling Jesus to give in. He didn't.
- In our lives, we will find ourselves in the wilderness where we are alone, at the end of ourselves, ready to give up. It's in those moments where we're most vulnerable. And left on our own, we lead ourselves into temptation; however, when we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to lead us away from temptations. The prayer is that God would lead us out and deliver us.
- God will lead us to quiet waters and guide us into righteous paths, but we will have moments when we walk through dark valleys and experience the temptation of evil. But we don't fear and don't give in to it because he is with us and will guide us.
- One way to think about this prayer would be like this: Lead us, not into temptation as the tempter, or we ourselves, might lead, but deliver us from evil. Temptation is a part of the human condition, but if we're not being led by God, we will lead ourselves right into temptation and follow it all the way to its destructive conclusion. Instead, we pray this prayer, all of it, that invites us to accept a loving Heavenly Father as the Lord of our lives, living out the goodness, grace, and forgiveness he has given us. Following him into a life of sacrificial love that transforms this world as it transforms us.

Reflection Questions

- Why do you think it's important that Jesus experienced temptations in his life?
- How do you tend to view temptations and where they originate from?
- What are common temptations that you feel physically, mentally, or spiritually?
- At what times are you more open to being tempted?
- Who or what do you turn to in moments of temptation?
- Looking back on the sermon series, what parts of the series will you remember or take with you the most?
- What aspects of your prayer life has changed during the sermon series?
- What areas of prayer do you think you need to continue to grow in?

Prayer for the Week

- God, thank you for serving as an example of how to handle temptations. Help me to remain steadfast under temptations and to trust in you in my moments of weakness. Amen.

Additional Readings

- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Galatians 6:1
- Hebrews 4:15