

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 6:10–20 | Matthew 26:30–35 | Psalm 34:17

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 5.19.24

SUMMARY

When the Christian asks the Heavenly Father to “deliver us from evil,” what, exactly, are they asking? Certainly, this petition would include deliverance from adverse circumstances, but it’s not limited to them. The greater request embedded in this line of the prayer is for God to deliver us from the spiritual evil within us that opens us to attack. Though we are saved and justified before God, we still wrestle against remaining and indwelling sin—the sin in our hearts that inclines us to do something other than God’s will. Our enemy, who is not flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12), seeks every opportunity to exploit our weaknesses. Satan does not make us sin, but he is a tempter and an accuser who tries to deceive us in such a way that causes us to yield to our evil inclinations. So, the Christian should watch and pray that our desire for God’s will would be greater than any inclination we have to sin. Our first course of action is to acknowledge our inability to purge away our sinful desires under our strength and, instead, rely upon the work and strength of Christ. Under his strength, Peter convinced himself that he would never betray Jesus (Luke 22:33). But Jesus tells Peter that Satan could have easily had his way with him if not for the intercessory work of Jesus (Luke 22:31–32). This scenario is equally real for every Christian; under our power, we will succumb to temptation, so we pray for Christ to deliver us from what we are too weak to resist on our own. The Lord will deliver us when we cry for help (Psalm 34:17).

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Matthew 6:13b and Luke 22:31–34.

What do you typically think about when you pray, “deliver us from evil”? What evil do you picture in your mind as you pray this?

How does the spiritual evil within us most often present itself to you? In what ways do you feel most tempted? What does this passage teach us about confronting this evil?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.