

Deliver Us From Evil
Sermon - August 1, 2021

Scripture Readings: Luke 4:1-13 & 31-37

Golden verse: *“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”* John 8:36

This is the last prayer in the Lord’s Prayer, followed by doxology “For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours”.

Deliver us from evil. This prayer follows the previous part. The old translation says: Lead us not into temptation. Our newer translation says: Save us from the time of trial.

Being close to or around a trap, we are still NOT in the trap, only around it. Being around a temptation does not mean that we have already been captured, and we are about to commit a sin.

Being around a pit does not mean that we are ALREADY in the pit, from where it is hard to get out.

But walking very close to the pit, stepping very close to the trap, we have a higher chance to fall into the trap or to fall into the pit.

We all know those situations when we were playing with fire. We were challenging ourselves or a situation and, being humans, we fell into the temptation, into a trap and we realized the consequences, but it was late. And the only opportunity to escape was to cry out loudly for help: “Deliver us, Lord, from the evil, from this situation, in which we fell because we were playing with temptation.”

The Lord Jesus Christ talks to us very often about the devil as a tempter. We hear that the devil is evil and follows us everywhere. The devil follows us everywhere to tempt us, to trap us, and to pull us down into a slimy pit. Then he wants to kill our whole body, mind, and spirit. Jesus said that the devil is evil, a human killer, a dark power. The most opposite of everything positive. The devil lies, steals, and kills. His work is everywhere. In everything that is wrong, the devil’s influence can be discovered.

The Lord Jesus said that we have to be aware of the devil’s traps. He is encouraging us that, if we fell into the devil’s traps, we have to cry out for help because our own strength is not enough to escape.

It would be a waste of time to speculate how the devil destroys today, and how we can get enough strength to deny all kinds of temptations. If somebody would break into your house during the night, your first thought would not be to speculate from where that person came, where he was before, why he picked to break into your house, what he wants to steal, what his intentions are or what he wants to do. Also, you would not try to meditate if that person attended high school or university, but you would pick up your phone and in the shortest time possible you would dial 911, crying out for HELP!!! Then you would try to protect yourself as much as you could.

The Lord Jesus told us to cry out right away.

Dear beloved, we are never alone. Constantly, there are two powers around us. The Lord Jesus wants to keep us close to him, and the devil wants to pull us towards him. Both want us. The main question is: towards which person are we tending to lean? Do we want to stay with Jesus, or do we allow the devil to bring us in temptations to destroy us?

The main problem is that we are born as humans, and for this, the devil is present in our blood, in our behaviour, in our minds, and in our thoughts, and the devil is able to control us from inside.

Shortly before the Lord Jesus Christ started His journey to Jerusalem to be crucified, according to the King James translation in John 14:30, He said to His disciples: *“The ruler of this world is coming, and **he has nothing in Me.**”* Based on the New Living Translation: *“He has no power over me.”* This means that the Lord Jesus Christ was the only human person who was totally free inside from any kind of temptation. But you and me, we all have to realize that the tempter is not outside of us but inside us. There was only ONE person who was able to say: the devil has nothing in me. And that was our Saviour.

In us, we have to discover our old human nature. The devil knows all my weaknesses, where he can break into my life, and where he can break in for sure with temptations. If we want to see how the devil is working, we don't have to find out how he is working in others, but we have to realize how the tempter is working IN us and THROUGH us. My body, my own soul and my own spirit is the place where I have to discover the devil. We can discover him in our thoughts, temptations, words, and actions. The most devilish thing is to search for the devil outside of us or in others, but not in us.

Dear beloved, if the Holy Spirit can take us to the point when we can discover the devil's work on us, in our actions and often in our feelings and in our desires, then we are one step closer to our salvation.

I caught myself quite a few times saying things that I would never want to say, but when I was under temptation and I was weak, I said things that I deeply regretted after. I had moments, when I could not stop saying something or doing something, that I did not want to do or say. Later, I realized I was overpowered by the devil. But in those moments, I learned to do the best thing for my salvation: I cried out to Jesus Christ to help me, to save me, to save my life and my spirit.

Once, the disciples were sailing across the Lake of Gennesaret. Jesus, as a tired human being, fell asleep. A huge storm came upon the Lake, and the disciples were afraid that their boat might sink.

So, they woke Jesus up, asking Him to save their lives.

Some of you may ask, why do I have to talk today about so many evil stories. Some of you would say that you got scared facing the power of the devil. Others would say that what I am saying makes no sense to them because they never saw that the devil would work inside them.

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray this sentence: Deliver us from evil. And there is a very serious reason why He told us to pray this.

But there is an amazing message in the Bible, which will make our faces shine, and to rejoice, which will give us peace of mind and incredible joy: The Lord Jesus came into this world to break the power of the devil.

On Maundy Thursday night, the absolute Holy started to visually confront the evil. The devil was fighting against Jesus through the Pharisees when they created all kinds of false accusations against Jesus. The devil was fighting against Jesus through His own disciples when one betrayed Him and the others left Him alone and ran away to save their lives. The devil was fighting against Jesus through Peter, when Peter denied three times his Master. The devil was fighting against Jesus through the Roman soldiers when they tortured Him. The devil was fighting against Jesus when He was on the cross, being mocked and when people told each other that He saved others, let's see if He can save himself. The devil was fighting against Jesus when on the cross He felt alone, and abandoned even by God, as He cried out: "My Father, My Father, why did You forsake Me." But the Lord won against the devil, as Jesus proclaimed: "Father, it is done. In Your hands, I place

My soul.” When He died, He won the victory. His blood, which was shed on the cross for me and for you, saved you and me and all of us who believe in Jesus, the Saviour. The devil’s power was broken by Jesus on the cross.

If we need help, we have to grab the cross.

Jesus said: “*If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*” (John 8:36)

We are saved. This is what we have to say to the devil constantly: You are a defeated enemy, and this is why I am not afraid of you.

James is encouraging us, saying: *Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* (James 4:7)

I want to tell you, with a joyful heart, that if you embrace Jesus Christ, and you accept Jesus as your Saviour, then you are saved and you belong to those who can receive the power to win above the temptation more and more often. Not always, because we are still humans, but we will receive strength to have victory above our biggest enemy.

During temptations, we just have to cry out to Jesus, and Jesus will come to rescue us.

Witnessing so much evil in this world, we don’t have to be scared, or we don’t have to be afraid of the devil, but we have to cry out to Jesus for HELP. We have to pray that the Lord should save us.

I hope you, too, many times experienced the moments when Jesus helped you to come out from a difficult situation. For this, please continue to pray daily: Deliver us from evil. And never forget that the Lord Jesus is constantly with you to protect you and to save you.

You are saved, and the victory for every situation is prepared for us IF we cry out. For this, let us surround the wondrous old rugged cross. Amen