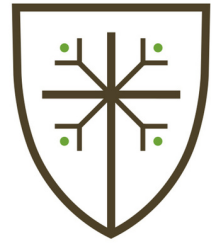


SERMON NOTES



The Lord's Prayer Fall Sermon Series

November 12, 2023

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Deliverance from Evil"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Daniel 3:16-19, 24-25

1 Peter 4:12-13; 5:6-11

Matthew 3:16-4:2; 6:9-13

DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. In the midst of trial and temptation, what things do you try to lean back on besides God? Of what do you say, "At least I still have _____?"
2. How is the courage Tim talked about in this sermon different from the world's idea of courage?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim continued our look at the last petition of the Lord's Prayer begun by Brent last week. And in doing so, attempted to answer the questions, "are we being honest with our lives and what's happening in them?" and "How can we face the tests life gives us without them becoming temptations that devour us?"

A Quick Review

Last week, Brent defined the word used in Matthew for "temptation." And if you recall, it had two interpretations – temptation and trial – that at first may seem opposite of one another. Trials are used by God in order to change and form you unto everlasting life. Temptations are used by the Evil One in order to destroy and twist what is good unto our death. After his baptism, Jesus is lead into the wilderness, an uninhabitable place, in order to be tempted. Are these temptations or are they trials? The answer, as often is the case, is YES to both. The Father sends Jesus, full of the power of the Spirit, in order that he might be formed by the trial and given strength to resist the temptation that follows. And he does the same with us.

An Honest Assessment

In this series, Tim has previously used the analogy of smelting gold in a furnace. As it is heated over and over again, the gold is purified – more and more with each successive heating. These are our trials that lead unto life. In scripture, being tested by God and formed by God are almost synonymous. And so in the Lord's prayer, our petition is for the test to not become a trap into which we fall. Jesus knows our lives will be full of trials God can and will use. We can't escape it and, left to ourselves, we can't endure it. We cannot avoid trial and temptation, and so we pray to be delivered from it – to be delivered from the evil one.

An Essential Story

The prayer for deliverance is, at its heart, a prayer for courage for us. In his story *Screwtape Letters*, Lewis refers to courage as "the form of every virtue at the testing point." It enables love to be more loving, mercy to be more merciful, faith to be more trusting; even beyond the point at which we think these virtues are spent. In trial, we soon realize (even though it was always true) that we have nothing else to fall back on besides God and the courage he provides.

Our old testament story from Daniel shows us the truth of this. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to obey the order of the king to bow down and worship him. And so, the King threatens to throw them into the furnace. They respond by telling the king to throw them in. God will rescue them. And if he does not, he has a reason they have not seen. They are thrown in and God joins them in the furnace. They are seen walking around unbound and unburned with a fourth person in the furnace. And so too, God joins us in our furnace, in order that we might walk around unbound and unburned by the flames of opposition in the world.

Like these three in Daniel, Jesus too went into the fiery furnace of his death. And like them, he prayed before he went, "not my will but yours be done." He suffered death on the cross for our sins. He was raised in order to defeat death and in order to be with us in our temptations.