

Prayer

Matthew 6 vs 12-13

Deliverance (slide)

Continue with prayer before service

Gathering (slide)- updates on our movement, FiXit, feedback from you, special ministry guest don't miss

Lent - (slide of book)

Andrew Murray: "The place and power of prayer in the Christian life is too little understood. As long as we view prayer simply as the means of maintaining our own Christian lives, we will not fully understand what it is really supposed to be. But when we learn to regard it as the highest part of the work entrusted to us...we will see that there is nothing we need to study and practice more than the art of praying."

Prayer: **Box (slide)** at end of service (take a chance).

In the past few weeks we have focused on prayer and how Jesus taught us to pray

Matthew 6 vs 9-13 (slide)

1.His glory

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

2.His purpose

10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

3.Our needs

11 Give us today our daily bread.

4. Deliverance

12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

1.The importance of confession (slide)

“Lord forgive us our debts”

1 John 1 vs 9 (slide)

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

The journey of deliverance begins here.” Lord forgive me”

If I don't believe something, I am doing is evil I cannot be delivered from it.

If I don't believe porn is evil how can I be delivered from its addiction

If I don't believe my selfishness is evil how can I be delivered from self

If I don't believe racism is evil how can I be delivered from racism

I will be a slave to whatever evil remains in my life. It will have a profound effect on my relationship with God. My heart will get hardened towards Him.

Hebrews 3 vs 12-13

12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

This was what happened with Israel over and over again.

The apartheid churches in SA had impressive buildings and were full of people every Sunday but there was no freedom, no relationship and no spiritual life. There was spiritual death and legalism. Without the regular practice of confession I am in danger of allowing evil to take residence in me and become normal where I don't call it sin anymore. I become drained of spiritual life and my well runs dry.

Psalm 19 vs 12(slide)

But who can discern their own errors?

Forgive my hidden faults.

“God show me what I am not seeing.” Every human being needs to pray this simple prayer: “Lord forgive me today”. Romans 3 makes it quite clear that we have all sinned and fall short of His glory. The pattern Jesus gives us here is not a once off but a regular part of our prayer life

Lord forgive me for my selfishness today, forgive me for holding on to my rights, for making myself Lord and making it about my kingdom. Forgive for molding you into my image. For pride

Is confession a part of the rhythm of your spiritual life? Can you remember when last you asked God to forgive you for something? We tend to focus on the big blowouts and not the small ones.

Confession begins the journey of deliverance and once I know I’m forgiven a new confidence comes over me. I can stand in who I am in Christ and then I am positioned for resisting the enemy.

Briefly on unforgiveness

If you pray the Lord’s prayer with unforgiveness in your heart you are praying judgement on yourself.

Bottom line: forgiving others is evidence that I know God has forgiven me

Make confession “Lord forgive” a part of your Christian rhythm. Revisit this during lent

2. Dealing with temptation (slide)

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

Temptation and testing can be used interchangeably here

The account of Jesus temptation in the desert is helpful in informing us.

Matthew 4 vs 1-11 (slide)

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^[a] by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

At this time, Jesus was "led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" This shows us that just because we are facing temptation doesn't mean we're out of God's will-- quite the opposite. Temptation is on the right side of sin. When I am living in sin temptation is not needed. Since temptation was part of Jesus' earthly journey, we can surely expect it to be part of ours. So, what should we know about it?

1. Know the origin

Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit but was not tempted by Him. There is One who does the tempting – Satan. Temptation and deception are directly connected, and this is why

God can never tempt me. He cannot go against His character. He cannot deceive. He lives in truth. He is truth. He cannot lie. God never does the tempting.

James 1:13-14 (slide)

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.

14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

There is a huge difference between God leading me to a place of temptation and me leading myself by my own desires. When my desires lead me to temptation I run. When God is leading me, I am not involved in orchestrating it, so I face it in trust.

EG Problem with materialism- mall, gambling, Casino, Lust, adult store, alcohol, liquor store. Home alone with my girlfriend. I know to say away from these places of evil. I flee.

How many times have I dropped my guard cos I thought I am strong and then fallen?

1 Cor 10:12 (slide)

12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

Avoid rather than defeat temptation. Some time we can play the game to prove our strength. Then it's the power of my will that I celebrate rather than His glory at work in me.

So, there is one Tempter and then it is my will and choice to give in to it. Satan cannot force me, it is my choice and I am responsible for my choice. Temptation is a moment of deception- Adam and Eve –. In the moment I am faced with the choice of believing what is true or believing the lie. When I give in to temptation it means I have chosen to believe what is not true and the result is sin and death.

Adam tried to blame God in Gen 3 vs 12 but it was Adam's fault

12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Satan offered the fruit and a deception and Adam chose to respond. We must take responsibility for our sinful choices. As long as I blame others confession will not happen and deliverance cannot come. So, when temptation comes my way, I know immediately that the enemy is involved.

2. Knowing that God is in control (slide)

Lead us not into temptation is a statement that God is always in control. The enemy can never hold any trump cards or catch God unawares. My life is hidden in Christ which means the only way the enemy can get near me is if God allows it and the only reason God will allow it is for a purpose. When God leads me to a place of testing it is for a purpose. It was the Holy Spirit that led Jesus into the desert, and by the way, never left Him. He doesn't play games with me and set me up for a fall.

He has promised:

1 Corinthians 10:13 (slide)

13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

“Lord, please do not lead us into a trial which will present a temptation stronger than our power to resist it.”

Whatever temptation or test comes my way, I have the ability to make the right choice. God is in complete control of any testing that He may allow to come my way.

3. Know God has a purpose (slide)

Why would He lead us into temptation/ testing?

1.It proves the reality of my faith (slide)

Stef left alone. “I am being so good.”

Abraham, Jesus, Job

James 1 vs 2-4 (slide)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Job's story. We know so little of the cosmic battle going on every day. Trials and temptations come our way to build us up in the faith. I am not happy with all the hardships Lynn and I have faced and wouldn't want them again. Where do you think our faith was tested grew the most? Where do we have the testimony and story to tell of God's faithfulness? In the testing times.

2. God is preparing me for something greater (slide)

Luke 16 vs 10a (slide)

10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much,

Jesus had come from an amazing high where He was commissioned and anointed at His baptism. Now He was being prepared for ministry

3. God is glorified when I overcome (slide)

1 Peter 1 vs 6-7 (slide)

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Job, Abraham, many of you

3. Deliverance of evil (slide)

James 4 vs 7 (slide)

Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you

1. Be aware of the setup (slide)

Jesus heard the voice of the enemy who was tempting Him (in His mind). How as He feeling physically, emotionally, spiritually? Tired, weak and alone. We need to be aware of what is going on in our lives and when we are most susceptible to temptation.

1 Peter 5 vs 8 (slide)

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

When are you most vulnerable to sin and temptation? What are your familiar temptation paths? When are the stars aligned? For me, discouraged, bored, tired late at night. Form new paths and rituals. He is the opportunist looking for the setup. Take the time to make a plan. Submit to God

2. Resist Him by standing on truth (slide)

How did Jesus resist? Exposed the lies and declared the truth. Did it change how He felt in the moment? Who was most affected by the declaration of truth? The enemy. He was silenced. This is what happens. I am a slave to what I believe and it's through belief that he enslaves and controls me.

Deliverance comes when deception is exposed and removed, beliefs are changed and only truth remains. So, deliverance prayers are usually around exposing lies and declaring truth.

Be careful of feelings. when Jesus resisted did, He suddenly feel ecstasy? No, He was exhausted and needed the angels to attend to Him. Victory over temptation does not make

me feel wonderful in the moment but the joy comes when I realize I am free and no longer a captive.

I speak truth not based on feeling but rather what I know to be true. In some of my darkest times I did not want to declare truth.

Lead me not into temptation but deliver me from evil "Lord when the deceiver comes, please keep me in your truth."

Conclusion

Do you have any unconfessed sin in your life? Known? Have you asked Him to reveal unknown? Do you need to ask His forgiveness? Do it today.

What are the lies behind the sin? What deception are you needing deliverance from?

Resist evil by speaking truth to lies. This requires standing on the truth, especially of who you are. I need to make daily declarations of truth until his voice is silenced in me. I need to position myself in His presence for Him to speak truth to me.

Lord, I renounce the lie that I am rejected, unloved, dirty or shameful because in Christ I am completely accepted...I am His child, bought with a price, a saint and a holy priest. These are prayers of deliverance. Declaring the word of God (slide)

Dear heavenly Father, I praise You and honor You as my Lord and Savior. You are in control of all things. I thank You that You are always with me and will never leave me or forsake me. You are the all-powerful and only wise God. You are kind and loving in all Your ways. I love You and thank You that I am united with Christ and spiritually alive in Him. I choose not to love the world or the things in the world, and I crucify the flesh and all its passions. Thank you for the life I now have in Christ.

I ask You to fill me with the Holy Spirit so I can be guided by You and not carry out the desires of the flesh. I declare my total dependence upon You, and I take my stand against satan and all his lying ways. I choose to believe the truth of God's word

despite what my feelings may say. I refuse to be discouraged; You are the God of all hope. Nothing is too difficult for you. I am confident that You will supply all my needs as I seek to live according to Your word. I thank you that I can be content and live a responsible life through Christ Who strengthens me. I now take my stand against Satan and I command him and all his evil spirits to depart from me. I choose to put on the full armor of God so I may be able to stand firm against all the devil's schemes. I submit my body as a living and holy sacrifice to You, and I choose to renew my mind by Your Living Word. By doing so I will be able to prove that Your will is good, acceptable, and perfect for me. In the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ I pray Amen (slide)

Revelation 12 vs 11 (slide)

**They triumphed over him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;**

Jude 1 vs 24 (slide)

24 To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.