

Matt. 6:12 “God’s Restoration and Protection” {strawberry festival, prayer week}

Intro. How would kingdom life be different if you knew that you were restored by God to kingdom life, were restored with others to kingdom work together, and overcame temptation?

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one [Matt. 6:12]

Subject: God’s restoration and protection

Object: Be restored and protected

Context: Model prayer. You can know God, know His will + know His provision [9-11]

A. Jesus restores you to kingdom life [12]

1. You need God’s forgiveness: And forgive us our debts,

a. Why do you need to be forgiven?

- i. Sovereign God would be justified in His judgment of us [**Rom. 3:23, 6:23**]
- ii. When you rebel against God’s reign in your life you impede His will being done

b God forgives you when you submit to Him

- i. **God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble [1Pet. 5:5]**

c. The need for salvation and spot cleansing [Jn. 13]

1Jn. 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- d. How it works: prayer -> focus on God -> see God’s view of your sin -> humility -> repentance & confession -> forgiveness from God -> restoration in kingdom life

2. Forgive others: as we forgive our debtors: [those who have wronged us]

a. Those who experience God’s forgiveness + kingdom forgive others

Mt.6:14-15 God will not forgive you unless you forgive others

- i. Forgiveness means: to stop feeling resentment, to release from a desire to punish [slate is clean]. Allows kingdom work to move forward.

b. Forgiving others is evidence that you are forgiven by God:

- i. Consider who/what do you need to forgive?
- ii. Pray for God to change your heart
- iii. Forgiving others is a choice: action vs. feeling/emotion

iv. Forgiveness precedes possible restoration: relationships are based on trust

B. Jesus protects you for kingdom life [12]

Do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one

1. You need protection from temptation [Mt.26:34-40]

a. The problem of self-reliance Jesus had predicted Peter's denial, but Peter insists he wouldn't and so said all the disciples [34-35] Spirit of self-reliance is contagious.

i. They moved from the Upper Room to the Garden of Geth. where the disciples learned about temptation, protection, prayer, + dependence upon God [36-39]

ii. Jesus prayed but disciples fell asleep -> rebuke Peter about his failure to pray [40]

2. Jesus' plan to overcome temptation [Matt. 26:41-44]

a. Watch: awareness of spiritual reality

b. Pray: intimate communication with God, prepare to do His will

i. **Spirit is willing flesh is weak:** tap into God's strength

c. So you don't give in to temptation: Temptation is a desire to act or think contrary to God. Deny Jesus His rightful place as Lord (King of the kingdom).

i. Jesus tempt re cross + prayer + submit to His Father's will [38-42]

ii. **James 1:13-17** God does not tempt us but we are drawn away by our own desires. Desire -> sin -> spiritual death (lose intimate connection/community with God)

iii. Desire begins in the mind- > battle v. flesh/spirit/enemy

C. Peter's reflections on Jesus' restoration and protection [1Pet. 5:5-9]

Peter denied Lord 3x as Jesus predicted, but was restored [Jn.21:15-19] but learned the lesson + strengthened others as Jesus instructed

1. Depend on God for protection from temptation, and restoration

a. Be humble [5-6] Recognize your need for God submit to Him and He will lift you up

b. Be prayerful [7] Cast all your cares upon Him because He cares

c. Be ready [8] Expect opposition to your relationship with God

d. Be committed [9] resist steadfast in the faith determine to stay close to Jesus

Peter reminded his audience that their brothers were experiencing the same suffering. Peter was referring to the persecution of Christians under Emperor Nero and the pressure to deny the Lord and a relationship with Him.

Discussion Qs

- 1. How has prayer helped you to see your need for forgiveness + restoration?**
- 2. How can failing to pray reflect an attitude of self-reliance?**
- 3. How can prayer help people to overcome temptation?**
- 4. What reflections do you have about prayer forgiveness & God's protection?**
- 5. Spend time praying as a group for God's restoration & protection**