

Lead Us Not into Temptation  
(Matthew 6:13)

Introduction:

1. In this portion of His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught His followers about prayer.
  - a. In vs.5-6 Jesus taught that prayer is to be offered to God "*in secret*" rather than for the purpose of being "*seen of men.*"
  - b. The Lord continued in vs.7-8 by teaching His followers to avoid using "*vain repetitions.*"
  - c. Jesus gave His Model Prayer in vs.9-13.
2. In our lesson we are concentrating on the request that Jesus taught His followers to make in vs.13a -- "*lead us not into temptation.*"
3. The Bible contains a number of instructions that we are to practice as we ask God to help us in facing temptation.

Discussion:

- I. WE MUST SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL
  - A. This principle is revealed in Psalm 119:11.
    1. How grateful we need to be that cleansing from sin is available by taking heed to God's Word (Psalm 119:9).
    2. However, hiding God's Word in the heart will prevent sin from occurring.
    3. Some helpful practices are given in Psalm 119:15-16.
  - B. Joseph illustrated this principle when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him (Genesis 39:7-9).
- II. WE MUST TALK TO GOD THROUGH PRAYER
  - A. Earlier, we read the Lord's words in His Model Prayer (Matthew 6:13).
  - B. He also taught His followers to "*watch and pray*" in Matthew 26:41.
    1. The purpose for watching and praying is to avoid entering into temptation.
    2. The reason for watching and praying is because "*the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.*"
- III. WE MUST FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES PRESENTED IN JAMES 1:13-15
  - A. Let us properly identify the source of temptation.
    1. Temptation is not come from God (vs.13; 2 Peter 2:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13).
    2. Rather, temptation is from Satan (Matthew 4:1, 3; 1 Peter 5:8).
    3. Let us submit to God and resist the devil (James 4:7).
  - B. Let us understand how temptation works (vs.14; Genesis 3:1-6).
  - C. Let us understand the consequences of giving in to temptation (vs.15).

Conclusion:

1. The information we have covered is designed to help us endure temptation.
2. A special blessing is in store for those who are successful (James 1:12).