



**SERIES: Walking with Jesus**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Monday December 4, 2023**

**Scripture: Matthew 6:13, Romans 7:19, James 4:7**

**TITLE: How to Resist Temptation**

“The devil made me do it!” A clever kid once pulled that when trying to get out of punishment for their actions. Nowadays, I get more of the “my brother made me do it.” But regardless of the excuse, I know no one made them do it. They simply did not look for a way out of sinning.

We can be just like my kids. We like to make excuses or even justify our sinful actions. But Jesus says there’s a better way to live. What is that better way? Let’s continue listening to Jesus’ teaching on prayer in Matthew 6:13 (CSB).

*And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

This is a request for our need for faithfulness. What do I mean by our need for faithfulness?

It is the request that God would put in us a desire or a heart to avoid situations and temptations that we cannot overcome. It’s a request for God to watch over us and shepherd us away from sinful situations and ultimately sin.

Remember what Paul said: *“For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want”* (Romans 7:19) We all struggle with sin. We all slowly drift towards temptation and sin. We don’t plan to, but we drift.

I read a story about a woman was lying on a floatation device in the Gulf of Mexico. She was enjoying the comfort of relaxing on an inflated chair that kept her afloat. When she realized that she had been swept about a half-mile out from the beach, she began to scream, but no one heard her. A coast guard craft found her five miles from the place where she first entered the water. She did not see her danger until she was beyond her own strength and ability.

If we aren’t careful, the same thing can happen to us. This is why we are to pray to be kept from temptation. When left on our own, there are situations that we are almost sure to fall into temptation and sin.

Is there hope in the hardest of temptations? Of course. Paul said God will provide a way of escape! But this is why Jesus is suggesting we pray for God to keep us from the situations that we will likely fall into temptation and sin. Prayer creates an anchor on our floatation device, so we don’t drift into temptation and sin. We pray because we have no greater need than our need for God. God can help in our temptations.

This is why Jesus finishes this request with “deliver us from evil.” A better translation is to deliver us from the “evil one”. Because it’s not just to avoid evil, but it’s to be kept out of the presence of the devil. And it’s the prayer and desire to escape his company when present.

James said, “[resist the devil, and he will flee from you](#)” (James 4:7). Satan is like a lion who is seeking to destroy us, our witness, our lives, and our faith. We can’t take him on. It is Christ who is our protector and can help us! Friends, we have no greater need than God. We need God to provide our physical, our spiritual, and our faithfulness needs.

So here’s my challenge for you today: resist the devil. God will never tempt you. God will, however, allow you to be tempted. So ask God for help as you experience temptation. Pray for deliverance from the evil one. And then stand firm.

When we rely on God for our faithfulness, we resist temptation and win the day.