



“Deliverance”

Matthew 6

Small Group Plan

We begin this discussion with an important supposition, one that probably should be highlighted and talked about rather than assumed. Satan is real.

And more than this, Satan has a plan to murder every person on planet earth (John 8:44). Why? Seventeenth-century Puritan Thomas Watson writes:

Satan envies man’s happiness. To see a clod of dust so near to God, and himself, once a glorious angel, cast out of heavenly paradise, makes him pursue mankind with inveterate hatred.

– quoted in *The Enormous Exception*, Earl Palmer

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹ This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² 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.”**

- Why do so many, who have a solid picture God, have a fuzzy picture of Satan?
- Why is the concept of “Spiritual Warfare” so clear and accepted in Africa, but not in North America?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— AS YOU ENCOUNTER “THE EVIL ONE” - BE STRATEGIC —

Matthew 6:13

Lead us not into temptation.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted 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 does 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.

Luke 22:40

*On reaching the place, he said to them,
“Pray that you will not fall into temptation.*

- How would you describe the preventative aspects of Jesus’ model prayer?
- Why did Jesus refuse to dialogue with Satan during his 40 days in the wilderness?
- Instead of dialogue, how did Jesus respond to Satan, and does this give us a clue as to what Jesus had been doing while fasting and praying in the wilderness?
- In the garden of Gethsemane, what did Jesus know that prompted his warning?

— AS YOU ASK FOR RESCUE - BE HUMBLE —

1 Corinthians 10:12

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t

Matthew 26:56

Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

John 6:66

*From this time many of his disciples turned back
and no longer followed him.*

- How could Jesus’ disciples, those who were with him on a daily basis, desert, deny and betray him?
- How did their own personal plans over-shadow Jesus’ mission?
- Why do some people today simply refuse to seek help?
- When and how have you refused to ask for help? Explain why?

— **AS YOU MAKE PREVENTION PLANS - BE CONNECTED** —

1 John 1:8-10

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

- How would you describe the power of being known by another person?
- What about confession — what is its power?
- Why are many today afraid of confession?
- How does God work through “one-another” relationships? How do they help to prevent potential problems from occurring?

— **AS YOU LOOK FOR SPIRITUAL POWER - BE PRAYERFUL** —

James 6:16

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

- Why is God always our primary relationship?
- How does our relationship with God influence and empower all of our other relationships?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Why does pride make Satan’s temptation more successful?
- How can our weakness be turned into a spiritual weapon against Satan?
- How can a good idea, an individual opinion, or a personal mission grow so large that it begins to over-shadow God’s core mission?
- What works best for you — prayer lists, prayer songs, prayer journals, praying alone, praying with someone, or ... ?
- In your prayer today, “*deliver **me** from the evil one,*” where is he attacking you?
- Close with a moment of silent prayer confessing to God your place of vulnerability. Ask him to deliver you and then determine who, how and what your next step will be. Close by praising God for his mercy and grace.