

Lead Us Not into Temptation

Matthew 26:31-45

I. What it means to enter or “fall into temptation” (Matthew 26:41).

- A. The Greek word for “temptation” can mean testing or trial.
- B. God does not tempt anyone to do evil (James 1:13-15).
- C. The opposite of entering temptation (or testing) is to “be delivered from evil” (Matthew 6:13).
- D. There are two ways we can be delivered from evil.
 - 1. Avoiding a trial altogether (asking to be delivered from harm) (Matthew 26:39-44); spreading out a letter before the Lord (II Kings 19:9-28; 20:1-6; Jonah 3:4, 5, 10; II Samuel 12:19-25).
 - 2. Enduring a trial while responding appropriately. “Lord, help me not to fail in the middle of difficulty. Help me find the way out...” (I Cor. 10:11-13).

II. The remedy for falling into temptation is to “watch and pray” (Matthew 26:41; 6:13).

- A. The Greek word for “watch” means basically to be alert and mindful of dangers. The word is derived from “egeiro,” which means to arise, or awaken.
- B. It is always prudent to watch and pray, because our real enemy behaves like a roaring lion, prowling for someone to devour (I Peter 5:8, 9).
 - 1. By being alert we can sometimes avoid trouble altogether (I Peter 5:8).
 - 2. The prayers of the saints resist the enemy (I Peter 5:9; Matthew 6:13).
- C. There are seasons when trouble is more pronounced (Matthew 26:31-35).
 - 1. Jesus warned his disciples of impending trouble and not to “fall away” (literally to be scandalized) (Matthew 26:31).
 - 2. The safest place to be these days is a place of watching and praying and doing the things that are closest to God’s heart (Isaiah 61; 62:1-7; Matthew 24:14).

III. Discerning the Times

- A. This is not a day to depend on past peace and prosperity as if nothing is happening in the world around us.
- B. This is a day to believe and pray for the impossible (Matt. 5:13-16).
- C. This is a day to make solid relationships and work together (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Proverbs 18:1; Matthew 6:14-15).
 - 1. Jesus looked for support from His friends (Matthew 26:36-41).
 - 2. The power of encouragement (Hebrews 3:12-13)
 - 3. “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity...for there the Lord bestows His bless, even life forevermore” (Psalm 133; II Chr. 7:11-16).

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