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A Disciple's Heart...is Vigilant against Evil
Matthew 6:13, 19-34

An episode from the life of David, with Nabal and Abigail

1 Samuel 25:26 *now then, my lord, as the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, because the Lord has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your hand...*

1 Samuel 25:31 *my lord shall have o cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself...*

1 Samuel 25:32-33 *And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand!*

We are all predisposed to sin. Even Christians are tempted to sin, to go rogue. What is sin? Anything that would entice us to take matters into our own hand.

Anything that would motivate us to self-validate ourselves outside of the shed blood of Jesus

Anything that would cause us to try to find salvation in something other than God

And if we are not vigilant against sin, we will sin
And that's why we have to pray - asking God to protect us

Matthew 6:13 *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*

Two examples of what tempts us:

Matthew 6:19-24 *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

We are tempted, all the time by our desires for the security that wealth gives us. This is why many of us are slaves to work. Rest, Sabbath, requires faith. When we refuse to rest, we're saying that God isn't big enough to give us security. **Treasures on earth are the idols of power, control, comfort and affirmation we choose to worship.**

Matthew 6:25-34 *Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat of what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? Or What shall we drink? Or what shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

Anxiety is essentially saying that God is not sovereign or capable. So we are **tempted instead to be our own gods.**

Now back to **Matthew 6:13**

Temptations are any motivation to trust something other than God
Temptation is not necessarily always a bad thing - giving in to temptation is always a bad thing.

Jesus' own earthly ministry was not inaugurated until He had first proved Himself to be faithful in the face of temptation
When we resist temptation, we have allowed ourselves to be refined, "sanctified"

"Deliver us from evil" can also be read, "Deliver us from the evil one."
Satan is successful every time he convinces us that he does not exist.

Instead, "deliver us from evil" is acknowledging that there is an ongoing battle for our souls...and we are too weak to fight for ourselves

Three major mistakes we make:

1. We think sin in us does not exist, or if it is, we think it's justified
2. We don't acknowledge our weakness toward temptation to sin - so we don't necessarily see temptations as a serious
3. We resign ourselves to our own sin, our own weakness, so we spend more effort talking about our weakness (like, "This is just how I am") than we do leaning into Jesus to protect us from our weakness and still present propensity to sin. In other words, we like talking about our sin,

and how it makes us feel, more than we do repenting and being changed.

We live in the space between D-Day and V-Day

D-Day was when Jesus died and then was resurrected from death

V-Day will be when Jesus comes back to physically reign over His Kingdom

So in this in between time, we pray, because we are still weak and easily susceptible to the charms of any temptation.

And we pray because Satan is still trying to recapture and enslave our souls, our loyalty. He wants to re-poison our hearts.

In **Philippians 4:6-7** God instructs us to offer our worries to him through prayer. In turn he promises to flood our hearts and minds with His peace:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

The Protection Of the Father: Who is able to stand when indwelling sin is incited by the temptations of the world and worldly people, and stirred up by the activity of Satan, either spurring us on to sin or hiding its dire consequences from us?

Jesus urges us to pray to be delivered. The fact that he does so assures us that our Father is both willing and able to deliver us. We are weak, but he is strong.

The Christian who does not know his weakness can, therefore, neither pray this prayer nor experience God's strength. The Christian who know his weakness, but is a praying Christian, will be garrisoned by the Lord's strength.