

## “Submit and Trust”

(Lord's Prayer #4)

### Matthew 6: 5- 15 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup>And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup>“This, then, is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.  
<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.’

<sup>14</sup>For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.<sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

### James 4: 7- 10 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. <sup>9</sup> Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.



*Reflection on the Word:*

1. Why is Jesus concerned about the “appearance” of prayer?
2. Why is Jesus referring to when he says, “do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words”?
3. Does God lead us into temptation?
4. How does one resist the devil?
5. What does it mean to humble yourself before God?

***Family Time or Small Group (Better Together) Discussion:***

1. Describe a time when you were tempted. Who was behind your temptation? Did you give in to temptation or did you resist?
2. How is temptation like a test? How is it not?
3. How is evil universal? How is evil personal? Which evil do you need deliverance from today? Which evil will you need deliverance from tomorrow?
4. How can I pray for you?

***The Sermon:***

Do you remember the good old days of summer traveling?

Days long before cell phones and GPS directions. Traffic apps like WAZE and Google maps to guide us. The re- routing and audible turn here and turn now in a friendly computerized voice.

None of these things in the good old days.

In the good old days, there was a map. Neatly folded until needed. Then impossible to fold back. A map as big or perhaps even bigger than the car windshield. A map that started out north or was it east, or south, or west ... *where are we again?*

*What town did we pass?*

*What did that last sign say?*

And then finally an epic meltdown ... *here give it to me! Geez, I can't believe you can't read a map!*

A moment of quiet ... quiet before the storm ...

The kids watching from the backseat ... *could it be that dad can't read the map either?*

At that moment this part of the Lord's prayer became important to me. “*And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.*” There was something about the journey ahead and that there might be a need for deliverance.

I watched intently as pilot and co-pilot, ie mom and dad, worked their way with the map. The temptation was always there to throw it out the window in a fit of frustration. And every now and then I witnessed a biting of the tongue as they were watching their words. Because you know, we are often

tempted to use our words to hurt, put down, crush someone ... even the someone's we love. And I believe that evil rejoices in those times and in the use of those words.

But I also know that we all see evil differently.

My dad would not stop and ask for directions. In his mind, that was evil! Someone might give him the wrong directions and send us on a journey miles out of the way. Although, I think it also had something to do with stubbornness and not wanting to look bad in front of my mother.

Now my mother believed that it was evil that my dad would never stop ... and ask.

Gosh, those were the good old days!

And there in the backseat, holding a crinkled map that had almost been tossed out the window, ... peering over the edge occasionally to see teeth biting lips, I would intervene with a strategically placed, "I have to go the bathroom."

Thank goodness nature calls us all.

We'd stop.

I would witness my dad asking directions when my mom was in the bathroom. Likewise, I would witness my mom asking for directions when my dad was in the bathroom.

I would ask for a soda pop complaining about how thirsty I was. You never know when you might have to use the "I have to go to the bathroom" trick to stop a family feud.

I would then watch my mom and dad come together. *Since we are getting him a pop, let's see if they have a good map.* Together, they would pick out a new map never letting the other know that they had secret intel on the journey ahead.

I was given the old map to play with ... and with the new map ... my parents forged ahead, and we got to our destination. A summer vacation of happy memories and dreams that came true.

As we come to the last week in our sermon series on the Lord's Prayer, I believe Jesus has given us a new map. A map that we are to forge ahead. A map that will lead us to our destination ... a place called eternity. A place where our dreams do come true.

Dreams that I know include being reunited with loved ones.

Dreams of peace, good health, and eternal life.

Dreams of real intimacy with God.

And how do we get there?

We pray to our Father who lives there ... there in eternity.

And as our prayer unfolds like a map, we boldly ask that our Father's will would be done here on earth as it is in heaven. Such a bold asking requires that we not make a show or an appearance to have others look at us. Rather, this bold ask is to submit in humble adoration to our God. Please remember this: prayer humbles us.

Say it with me- **PRAYER HUMBLER US!**

Humbles us that we might pray:

*Give us today daily bread.*

*Forgive us as we forgive others.*

*Keep us from sinning when we are tempted.*

*Save us from the evil one.*

As a little boy, in the backseat, I discovered after a few good old summer vacation trips, that every map has a key to it. And the key is so important to reading the map. There you will find the important symbols and definitions. All the things necessary to guide you on your journey.

The key to the Lord's Prayer is that this prayer takes us from physical needs... *give us today our daily bread* ... to emotional needs ... *forgive us as we forgive others* ... to spiritual needs ...

*Lead us not into temptation* ... in other words ... when we are tempted, which is an everyday occurrence for us all, keep us from sinning. Help us remember your word. Help us lean on your strength. Convict us when we are weak, and our big toe touches the water. Help us to pull it back by your grace. Help us to remember the words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, "not my will but your will be done."

And as we remember these words, let us be humbled.

Because times too numerous to count, we fall into temptation. And in our falling, we believe that we are not worthy of redemption. That we must hide our sin, faults, and failures from each other and from God ... and perhaps the greatest giving into temptation is the act that we play in pretending that we are perfect and not in need of daily direction. The truth always comes out.

With a new map in hand, my parents set back out onto the road. Somewhere on the journey, it would slip out and they would confess. Back at the rest stop, they both had individually and secretly had asked for directions just in case they got lost again. They'd laugh but, I also sensed that they had a comfort knowing that someone had explained the way. Someone had pointed out the signs ahead. Someone who had been there before and knew the way.

Jesus is the Way. He knows the way of humanity. The directions we take. The detours and the dead end. And to that he gave his life so that you might be saved from the evil one.

And the good news in this prayer is that Jesus is with you. With every temptation you have, he is there. And some temptations you will pass and say "no" to. And some you will not, and you will give in with your "yes". But you will be rescued when you call on Jesus' name.

And with Jesus at your side, you have the strength to resist the evil one. The prayer that he taught invites you to trust this to be true. So, submit yourself in humbleness and trust in Jesus ...

for his is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

***Thought for the Week Ahead:***

“Faith is the deep confidence that God is good and that God’s goodness somehow triumphs.”

— Henri J. M. Nouwen