

“Lead Us Not into Temptation”

October 22, 2017

**Our Savior’s Way
Worshiping Sundays 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM
Pastor Tyson Labuhn**

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This morning as part of our sermon series on Luther’s Small Catechism, we’re taking a look at the 6th petition of the Lord’s Prayer – Lead us not into Temptation: that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature might not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, or other great shame or vice. Rather that even though we might experience temptations, that we might overcome them and become victorious.

But before we do so, I want you to bear with me as I share with you a story about a rather eccentric and wealthy businessman, who wanted to find a husband for his rather attractive daughter. It couldn’t be just any young man, but one that was brave and courageous. So he decided to host a party and invite a number of young men whom he thought might be suitable for his daughter. Before the party, in order to test the bravery and courageousness of these young men, he stocked his Olympic size pool with crocodiles and water moccasins.

After his guests had finished eating a delicious meal and had enjoyed a couple drinks, he invited everyone outside to the pool and asked all the eligible young men to stand closest to the pool.

Then he issued a challenge to them. He said the first one who can jump in and swim to the other side of the pool would be given the choice of a million dollars in cash, ten thousand acres of land, or his daughter's hand in marriage. And to entice the young men further, he shared that his daughter was the only heir to his estate. And so, as soon as he spoke those words, there was a large splash at the end of the pool and a young man quickly emerged on the other side of the pool.

Walking over to the young man who was dripping wet, he congratulated him and asked him if he wanted the million dollars in cash. The young man, who was trying to catch his breath shook his head no. So, he asked the young man if he wanted the ten thousand acres of land. The young man, who was starting to catch his breath said no again. Pleased with those answers, he said to the young man, then you must want my daughter's hand in marriage. But to his surprise, the young man said, "No, I want to know who pushed me in the pool!"

Temptation always seems to be close to us, enticing us to sin—whether or not it's our own or someone else's ambitious desire to exert our will over and above others in order to obtain more possessions or gain greater wealth. And because sin desires to have its will over us, it is always easy to give in to temptation. But overcoming temptation is never easy because it comes in many ways and in different forms. It can exist between people who don't know each other very well. It can also exist between the most trusted and closest of friends and relatives, because every one of us carries the seeds of temptation. These seeds of temptation have been with us ever since the Garden of Eden when both Adam and Eve were tempted and fell into sin.

Scripture tells us how King David fell into temptation when he looked down and saw Bathsheba bathing in the moonlight. It tells us how Judas fell into temptation when he betrayed Jesus for thirty

pieces of silver. And it tells us how Peter fell into temptation when he said that he would never deny his Savior. In doing so, they fell into sin, unbelief, and despair. But in Matthew, Mark, and Luke's Gospel, we also read about the time when Jesus Himself was tempted by the devil. As Jesus was fasting in the desert, the devil offered to satisfy His physical needs, offered Him power in this world, and offered Him glory in this world if Jesus would just do his will instead of the Father's will. Each time that Jesus was tempted, He spoke the Words of His Father in Heaven. Fully trusting in the will of His Father, Jesus overcame temptation and went on to give His life as a ransom for us all on the cross, so that even though we are tempted, we might escape temptation. And even though we might sin, we might receive forgiveness when we turn and repent of our sins. For it is by grace through faith that we're given new life in Him.

New life comes to us by the power of the Holy Spirit and we grow in this faith, giving our lives in service to Him as we share His Good News to those around us. This is the call that each of us has as part of the priesthood of all believers, but it's also for this reason that two of our members, Carl and Karen Cecil are preparing to go to Germany next April. I hope that you take the time to talk with them and offer them your support this morning. They're going to minister to thousands of people who left their old lives behind in the Middle East last year, in the hopes of new lives in a new country. And as a condition of citizenship in their new country, they're required to learn more about the Good News of Jesus Christ. And it is hoped that they will truly give their lives to Jesus.

Just like us, these new Christians shouldn't be surprised that they will be tested in their faith. For while God does not tempt us, He does test us our faith from time to time. We see this throughout Scripture: Abraham was tested with Isaac and Jesus tested the faith of the Canaanite woman. When He does so remember that the

testing of your faith produces steadfastness, so that united with Christ, we might overcome the temptations that come our way and in the end, win the victory that is ours through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

And now may that peace which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in that same Christ Jesus until He comes again. In Jesus' Name. Amen.