

Intro: When I graduated from HS a friend and I decided that our gift to ourselves was to take a trip. We settled on a 7 day canoe trip down a river that crossed the boundary between Ga and Fla One “minor” little detail. I have NEVER even been in a canoe! So, while we were shopping for freeze dried food I saw a book in the camping store...BS manual on canoeing! Seemed logical to get it...read it...very helpful Fast forward...first night out...we decided that we wanted to continue after dark. Mistake #1: Kept paddling...beautiful Rounded a bend in the river...I heard this noise up ahead...dull roar...started thinking...there was something in the book...

By the time I realized what it was...(deadfall) 2-3 feet...current had us...paddling for shore...didn't make it...over sideways! It was a disaster...Clothes...Food...equipment...EVERYTHING was waterlogged...wonder we didn't drown!

That is what Jesus is teaching His disciples about temptation in the Lord's Prayer:

Once Trials and Temptation have you in their “CURRENT”...Once they get a grip...it is incredibly difficult to get away
Matthew 6:9-13 Pg 685

1. First, Understand The Content of the Prayer Jesus is Modeling For Us.

Vs 13

What is it that Jesus is really praying for? Remember that we have said all along that this is a MODEL prayer...

He is giving us Examples of the kinds of prayers we should be praying...the things we should be asking God for

In this portion of the prayer, Jesus isn't saying...Don't let me be tempted to do the wrong thing...(God never does that!)

So, if that isn't what Jesus is teaching us...then what is He saying?

- First, have to understand the different between TEMPTATION and TESTING

>Temptation: *To solicit to evil*

Genesis 3:1-5 “You will NOT surely die!”

Temptation is the encouragement to DO the wrong thing, be disobedient to will of God

It can come in ALL different kinds of forms...NOT usually red body, horns tail, pitchfork!

Anything or anyone that encourages you to do that which God says DON'T do...Tempting you

Or, the inverse, the encouragement to NOT DO what God commands us TO DO!

Sin of COMMISSION: Sin of OMISSION....

THIS IS NOT THE IDEA THAT JESUS USES IN MT 6!!!

>Testing: *To undergo trial, testing or pressure with the intent to demonstrate that something is real*

1Pet 1:6-7 pg 857

Luke 22 “Peter, Satan asked to SIFT YOU LIKE WHEAT!!!”

Think here...those difficult situations in life that stretch your faith...cause you to struggle

Force you into dependence on God, reaching out for help, for strength, for insight

You aren't being encouraged to do evil...but it is painful, and difficult and sometimes harsh!

When you are done, the outcome is wonderful...but the PROCESS is PAINFUL!

THAT is what Jesus teaches us to pray...What He told Peter in Lk 22: Pray you aren't sifted...

THAT is the idea that Jesus uses here...and, He also has another couple of words that give insight....

>Don't “lead” me: Literally, to have an internal motivation...internal “current”!!! (Caught in the grip)

To be carried along inwardly, We say, “*God led me....*” “*God spoke to me....*”

>Instead “deliver” me: Literally, deliver me by way of a current!!! To pick me up and deliver me!!!

That's what happened with the canoe...I was delivered by current...Just to wrong thing!

So what Jesus is teaching us to pray is this. “*God...I KNOW that sometimes it is your will to purify me, test me, to stretch and make me better...but I'm asking you when those times come...to pick me up in your hands...move me through it to the end. If it is your will for me to go through it...(I'm hoping...and praying...and asking not!) but if so...take me safely to the other side!*”

2. Principles of Trials/Testing.

These are some of the basics every disciple of Jesus should learn...they will help you tremendously!

- God “Tests” us...He Never Tempts Us. James 1:13
- When God “Tests” It Is Always for the Purpose of Making Us Better James 1:2-4
- When You Are Being Tested the Question To Ask is WHAT...Not WHY? James 1:5
 - >Not WHY is this happening...you already know...to make you better.
 - >But...WHAT do you want me to learn/improve/grow? Learn it...and be done!

3. Principles of Temptation.

Again, *These are some of the basics every disciple of Jesus should learn...they will help you tremendously!*

- Temptation is not just difficulty...it always involves solicitation to evil James 1:13
- Temptation will come from 1 of 4 places
 - >Satan or his demons Eph 6:12 Luke 4:1
 - >Internal desire James 1:14
 - >World or Circumstances around us (Sometimes totally unexpected) 1Jn 2:16
 - >Other people Mt 22:18

Once you understand the difference between the two you will more effectively be able to pray...and to live for God!

4. Elements That Are Common To Both!

- Jesus understand your Temptation and Trials! Heb 4:15
- God always provides a way of escape in Trials and Temptations 1Cor 10:13
- Temptation and Trials Tend to Come in “Seasons” of Opportunity Luke 4:1
 - >Lit = *Until a more conducive or opportune time!*
 - (Know your weak spots...HE certainly does!)
- God promises a blessing to those who persevere, learn and are faithful James 1:2;12
- Trials and Temptations are Temporary. They don’t last forever! James 1:9-11 Prov 10:25

CONCL:

How Do you respond when trials and tribulations come your way?

Do you despair and give up? Or do you learn and grow?

Let me give you a strategy for success for when tough times come your way...

1. Determine if it is Trial...Or Temptation. That will help determine your response.
 - >Temptation: Run...Get out of dodge
 - >Testing: Ask God: What are teaching me...or Growing in me?
2. Ask God for Wisdom and Strength to respond correctly
 - >Wisdom to Learn and Grow
 - >Strength to Run and Resist
3. Look for how Jesus responded in the bible, or for direction from Him or others in bible. Follow Them
4. Hide His Word in your heart to Help (Memorize)
5. Interrupt the temptation EARLY (Lured away...then when it conceives) Stop it before the hook!
6. Build a Team to Help you. (Find an accountability partner who has “been there!”)
7. Hold on...and Hold Out for the time to pass