Good evening. Let's open the Bibles one more
time for the words of the Gospel of Matthew.
The Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6.
Love that song.
Matthew, chapter 6.
Begin reading in verse 9 and just read down through verse number 13.
Jesus says,
After this manner, therefore pray ye.
Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lastly, Jesus says,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.
That's a good amen.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.
Let's pray.
Lord, we do thank you again for another opportunity to be in your house.
Lord, just for another day of life that you have given us.
Lord, I pray that you would take your word tonight.
That you would give me the wisdom that I do not have of my own.
That you would give me the words to share.
But most important of all, God, that you would speak to us.
That we would see your truth.
Lord, not just see it, but embrace it.
Lord, not for us to change you, but for you to change us.
And we pray that you have your way in this service tonight.
Lord, in Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.
Amen.
Amen.
We spent, I guess this is now our fifth service or fifth lesson or
sermon or whatever you want to call it on this passage of scripture.
We've been sharing on the thought of how to pray.
I hope we at least remember now some of these truths and spiritual realities
that the Lord points out here at the beginning before this even begins.
He talks about not how to pray and he teaches his disciples.
Really, this is better titled, Jesus doesn't call this the Lord's Prayer.
Men have called this the Lord's Prayer.
It's really better titled the Model Prayer or the Disciples Prayer.
Jesus says, after this manner or in this way,
this is the pattern in which a man is to pray.
Number one, he realizes his first priority is to see the greatness
and the hallowedness and the holiness and the majesty of God.

Because when we begin to see God, we begin to see our need for God.
A preacher I like listening to by the name of Paul Washer, he says,
it's only in the light of who God is that our sins appear truly vile.
There's some truth to that.
We just look at ourself and look at the world, it doesn't look too bad.
But when we compare those things to who God
is, it begins to show up for what it really is.
But not only is this God hallowed, if you're
a child of God, this God is your father.
Not a stranger, not a force, not a religion,
not a denomination, but a perfect father.
That's the first priority.
Now the first desire.
He says, thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
That a man begins to see God, his interest, pale in comparison to God's interest.
His will takes a back seat to God's will.
Because God's will is perfect, it's never wrong.
He longs for that will of God, not just to occur, brother,
there'll be coming a day when everything will be right.
But we don't have to wait till then for the rightness
of God and the will of God to happen in our lives.
We see who God is.
He's our first priority.
Our first desire is the will of God.
Then we have this godly dependence.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Man, this hit me as much as any.
Today, today, today.
Not tomorrow, not next week.
Lord, give me what I need today.
And I don't have to beg for it.
I don't have to wrestle it out of some reluctant person's hand.
This is my father who longs to feed me.
I see who God is.
I long for his will.
I go to him and I depend on him on a daily basis
for the most minute necessities of my life.
But also in the process of this, I realize how
woefully short I have fallen to the standard of God
that he has and the calling that God's had on my life.
And I recognize my need for forgiveness.
Though I've been set free, though I'm no longer condemned,
though I've been saved, I'm clean, I'm watched by the blood of the Lamb,
I still realize that present sin pops up in my life.
And when I come before the holiness of God, he shines a great light on it.
And I need God to cleanse me, not save me all over again.
Lord, cleanse me from that sin that has disrupted fellowship between me and you.

But I also recognize that what I'm asking God to do, I must be willing to do.
Not should do, I must.
I must.
Can we pray this way?
Father, I want you to treat me in regards to
forgiveness, in regards to mercy, in regards to grace,
the same way that I treat other people.
That is really the essence of this forgiving and forgiveness.
But now we move to this last verse, this last statement of the Lord.
And tonight, very briefly, I want to talk to us about direction and deliverance.
Jesus says in verse 13,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
I think it was Sunday night when I said if we were going to,
we need to know what God's word said,
but we need to specifically know what it says about sin and salvation.
I've seen people take this passage of scripture,
where Jesus is talking about forgiveness.
It says,
Nicky Newell's salvation is contingent upon him
making himself right with everyone else in this world.
And I believe the Bible teaches you can be right with the entire world
and still not be right with God.
That my biggest one that I've offended isn't my neighbor, it's my Lord.
He's the one that I have sinned against.
My problem is vertical.
What Jesus is saying is that we can tell our relationship oftentimes with our Father
by our relationships with others.
So we've got to know what the Bible teaches about sin and salvation,
or we'll get this wrong.
But the same thing is true concerning sin and temptation.
This verse can be a little bit challenging almost to interpret.
Look what Jesus says here.
This is a prayer.
This is a request.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
So how do I have the biblical view,
the correct view,
about sin and temptation?
Folks,
I talked with somebody this, I forgot, not too long ago.
I don't understand everything that God does.
I don't understand why God often allows things that he allows.
I don't.
But when I don't really,
I'm not really sure what God's doing or why he's allowing it,

I always go back to what I know to be true about God.
And what I know to be true about God is he is holy,
he is perfect,
he is just,
he is without error,
he is love,
he is mercy,
and all of those things.
But specifically concerning sin and salvation or sin and temptation,
the Bible says in the book of 1 John that God
is light and in him is no darkness at all.
Not a hint of sin in our Lord.
Scripture tells us that he abhors sin.
It's a strong word.
It means he hates,
he detests,
he loathes sin.
That God longs for his people to live freed from sin.
Preacher, why are you telling me all that?
So we'll understand this.
The last thing a holy and just God will do
that hates sin will lead his children into sin.
James,
the clearest teaching on this we'll find in James chapter 1.
James says, Let no man say when he is tempted,
I am tempted of God.
For God cannot be tempted with evil,
neither tempteth he any man.
Easy to understand.
But,
every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed.
I've had people have the audacity to tell me that this was God's will for the life.
Can I tell you something?
And I said it not too long ago.
What God has said
is more important than God told me.
God told me is no substitute for what God has said.
God will never lead us into a place where we're living
contrary to what he has said is right and wrong.
God will never ever lead us into sin.
Every man is led into sin when he's drawn away by his own lust, his own desires,
his own need to fill the flesh or to satisfy that craving.
God doesn't lead a man into sin.
Now let me throw one at you.
What about the Lord leading Jesus into the wilderness?
Matthew chapter 4 verse 1 says this.
Then was Jesus led up of the spirit

into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.
I'm going to make you think for just a minute.
Now is that a contradiction?
Scripture tells in the book of James, neither tempteth he any man.
But we're in Matthew chapter 4.
Jesus didn't just wander into the wilderness,
but the spirit of God led him into the wilderness.
Is this a contradiction?
No, it is not a contradiction.
He was led by the spirit for this purpose,
to face the adversary face to face.
He was led by the spirit to show his power over the adversary.
He was led by the spirit to face the adversary,
show his power over the adversary,
and how we can live victoriously over the adversary ourselves.
What it says to be tempted of the devil.
Folks, the devil tempts men to make them weak.
The father tests men to make them strong.
And there's a big difference between the two.
That the Lord will lead us into places
that seem overwhelming,
they seem impossible,
they seem so difficult.
It isn't to lead us into the wrong place, it's to lead us to the right place
so that we come out better on the other side.
I want to share all this so we understand.
Verse 13 isn't a request
asking God not to do something that he's otherwise inclined to do.
No, it's about something much more important.
Folks, verse 13
is a request for direction.
And we've got to take this entire prayer,
this model prayer,
all together.
Look at what is happening here when we get in verse number nine.
After this matter,
therefore pray ye,
our Father which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
I see you, I recognize you, I can't fully explain you or comprehend you,
but I've got a glimpse of who you are.
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
and earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And now he prays, and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

He has seen the hallowedness of his Father.
He has seen that his will is perfect.
He longs for that daily bread of God.
He wants that forgiveness and forgiving in his life.
Now he is praying
and asking his Father
to keep him away
from the dangerous places.
See, this man,
through his prayer,
he has seen God and he has learned some things.
He recognizes that he is living in a dark and dangerous world out there.
And man,
on his own,
left alone,
man, when he gets outside of the will of God,
is prone to wander
into some of those dark and dangerous places.
It is a prayer
for the direction of God.
He has prayed for his bread.
He has prayed for his forgiveness.
He has prayed for his will.
He has prayed for all of these things in his life.
I think it is a country song.
Lord, help me help my stupid self.
I do not know if that is the title of it, but that is one of the verses.
Help me help my stupid self.
Because man has a tendency to wander in places that he don't belong.
I was studying Psalms 23 when I was just before.
I come out, I love what David says.
He said, He leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness
for his namesake.
David's talking about what God, this good shepherd,
does
and the pathway of the Lord and how needful it is for us to pray that.
God, lead me
in the right path.
But folks,
it's equally valuable
for us to pray,
Lord, lead me not
into temptation.
Direct me.
Guide me.
Keep me away

from places
that's not good for me.
And folks, there are places.
Whether we travel there physically or whether we go there mentally.
Places
that lead us
into temptation.
I had to ask myself,
is this normally part of my consistent prayer?
When was the last time that you, you may have come to the Lord,
especially since Sunday when we spent a lot of time on it,
Lord, give me this day or daily breath.
But when was the last time you asked God,
Lord, lead me not into temptation.
Keep me away from those places I don't need to be.
Physically,
emotionally,
spiritually,
psychology,
whatever it is in my life.
I don't think that's part of our prayer enough.
But I tell you what,
it needs to be.
It needs to be.
God's some divine direction.
But he also prays here,
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us
from evil.
I'm going to tell you through our study of Ephesians,
I really,
I left with a lot of things in that.
That's all that,
man, it's way better for me than it is for anybody else.
I'm going to tell you what I know from the book of Ephesians.
I've got a defense.
I am not left alone
to survive by myself.
Scripture tells me that the very power that raised Christ from the dead lives in me.
He's exceedingly,
abundantly able to do more than all that we ask or think.
That I have the whole armor
of God provided to me.
I have a defense to live and walk in this world.
But folks, the reality is for the man
who fails to utilize it,
for the man who fails to lean on it,

that defense is no defense at all.
Folks, for the man who's defeated
and he falls,
he's been ensnared,
he's been trapped,
folks, that man doesn't need a defense anymore, he needs a deliverer.
This is good.
Because sometimes we fight,
sometimes we don't
fight hard enough.
But at times we can get in a place that we have been defeated.
We have been ensnared, we have been entrapped,
and we need someone stronger than us to deliver us.
I wrote down some verses that David prayed, Psalm 59.
He says, Deliver me from my enemies,
O God.
Deliver me from the workers of iniquity,
and save me from bloody man.
Psalms 18.
He says,
He delivers me from my enemies.
Thou hast delivered me from violent men.
Over and over and over and over and again in the book of Psalms.
I love the book of Psalms.
And the reason why,
it is divine inspiration.
The Holy Spirit moved on David just like he moved on Paul,
and he moved on John.
But it's also riding
through human experience.
He's walked with God to the valley of the shadow of death.
But David also goes,
Please don't come to me and say we should never question God.
If that is your belief,
then you need to take the book of Psalms and just rip it out of your Bible.
We should never question the motive of God
or the character of God
or who God is.
But oftentimes in Scripture,
David goes, Why, Lord?
Why?
Life can lead us to a place where we go,
Why, Lord?
Why?
How long shalt thou wait?
How long shalt thou still the hand?
Why am I going through what I'm going through?

So it's divine inspiration and it's human experience.
But one of the things that David says,
God, you have delivered me.
You have delivered me.
You have delivered me.
You have delivered me.
And church, the same again.
It's true for all of us here.
We may have been defeated.
We may have been beat down.
We may have fallen.
We may have come so short.
But the reality is
the delivering power of God
has brought us to the place where we are right now.
But folks, this is about more than men.
Look what Jesus says.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
I don't want to get too technical,
but the reality is that word evil
is best translated evil one.
It truly is.
It would do us well
to read Ephesians 6
on a daily basis
and contemplate the depth of it
and the reality of it
that there is a thief out there
whose sole desire
is to seek and to kill and to destroy.
That is his aim.
That is his goal.
Is to come in and terrorize and upend things.
And sadly,
the reality is for many Christians
that has come to pass, many of God's children have fallen victim
to this evil one.
But Jesus says that the wise man prays, the wise man prays,
Father, deliver me.
He doesn't lay in it and make excuses.
He doesn't get comfortable with it and condone it.
He doesn't drown in it and just get defeated by it.
No, he recognizes
where he's at.
He recognizes where he is.
He said, God, I need you to deliver me.

And folks, how much would we be better off as a church
if we would swallow our pride,
recognize the situation that we're in and go, you know what?
I'm just throwing it all out there, God.
I need you
to deliver me from him.
That he has got his snares in me,
he's got it in my mind, he's got it in my thoughts,
he's got it in my family.
Deliver us
from evil.
Lord, keep me from these places that are dangerous.
divine direction,
divine deliverance.
But my favorite part of this,
all of this leads to this resounding declaration.
Look what it says.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not in temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen.
I love how this prayer is.
In my mind, I see it like this man gets through praying.
He's learned how to pray.
What do you mean he's learned how to pray?
He's just not going through the motions.
He sees God.
He sees God.
He sees his Father.
He sees his will.
He longs for that will.
He goes to this God for his daily bread on the daily braces.
He recognizes his sin.
He also realizes the danger that is out there.
God, keep me from it.
Lord, deliver me from that evil one that has gotten inside my home, in my mind,
in my family.
But at the end of this prayer,
the gavel is slammed down,
the plague is planted,
and he says,
I can pray this way
because thine is the kingdom.
Thine is the power.

Thine is the glory forever.
Amen.
He recognizes the power
and the sovereignty
and the glory
of God.
that's why he can pray this way.
Folks,
Satan has power,
but he does not have unchecked power.
Sin has power,
but it's not greater than grace power.
No, this man prays,
it's a declaration of confidence
and assurance
of what, Ronnie,
that all of this belongs to God.
That he doesn't have to ask permission from Satan
or the circumstances or anybody else.
Lord, I'm praying for all these to be accomplished and I can do it
with the confidence knowing that this is your kingdom.
This is your power.
It's for your glory forever.
Church,
this is why,
this is why we can sing when we're sad.
This is why we can keep going
when we're confused.
We can worship
when we're weak.
Listen,
if I only preached
the times that I felt like preaching,
it would probably only be about half the time.
Some of y'all,
your view of me just went way down.
I'm just going to be honest with you.
Tired.
Got too much stuff going on.
I just,
I just ain't
into it today.
Can I cap out with something right here?
Please.
Not so much here, but I see in other places that somehow we've got to do something to
whoop people up in order to get them
to worship or to sing

or to pray or to preach as if somehow
we're cheerleaders or whatever.
No.
No.
No,
we do it
because God is worthy.
We do it
because we're better off
after we do it.
Even when we don't feel like doing it and I'm sad and I'm weak
and I'm confused and I'm tired but I come back to the table
of my father and I allow him to feed me, I recognize who he is then all of a sudden
I mean there's an energy that comes there's a passion that comes there's a joy
that comes because even when I didn't feel like it I did it anyway
and the same thing
is true of prayer.
I've had people
I just
I can't pray.
That's the best time to start.
That's the best time to pray.
Anybody ever been when you can't pray?
I raised two hands.
I've been so mad I didn't want to pray.
I've been living in my own depression in my own ditch I didn't feel like praying.
I didn't feel like
that is the best time to pray.
And you get to the end of this thing
when we pray God's way
because Lord this is your kingdom.
this is your power
this is your glory
forever
forever
amen
amen
church we can pray not for the purpose of prayer
again the purpose of prayer
isn't to change God the purpose of prayer is to change us
that I have a God
who would direct me when I cry to him
he'll direct me when I lean on him
he'll deliver me when I need him
and praise God he is the king of kings and lord of lords
let's pray
dear father thank you

thank you for your instruction
lord for your divine guidance in our lives
lord that when we truly come to you the way you
called us to come to you it's impossible to do it
without examining our lives
it's impossible to do it about being honest where we are
that we get to see who you are and we can rejoice in who you are
because it's your kingdom and your power and your glory
but lord through you revealing yourself you also reveal our needs to us
lord may this house be a house of prayer
but lord may we be people of prayer
and that the God
that we pray to
lord may change us to the glory of your name
in Jesus name I pray amen let's stand please 141 141
141
141
141
141
141
141