

Summary Session 5: **& lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil**

Introduction

- How could such a God lead us into temptation?
- Pope Francis suggested a change of translation: "*do not let us fall into temptation*"
 - Greek word "*peirasmos*" can mean both *temptation* & *testing*.

The context in which Jesus lives & preaches.

- He lives at the end of the times, expecting final in-breaking of God's kingdom in history.
- Victory of God's reign can only come through a great contest between God & Satan.
 - Jesus confronts the power of Satan in the desert (Lk 4:1-13).
 - Satan fails & leaves Jesus to wait for an opportune time (Lk 4:13).
 - That time comes when Satan enters into Judas (Lk 22:3)
 - Judas looks for the opportunity to hand Jesus over (Lk 22:6).
 - Jesus repeatedly instructs the disciples to pray they may not enter into temptation (Lk 22:44-46).
 - Judas succumbs to Satan,
 - Jesus prays for Peter that his faith may not fail (Lk 22:32).
 - For the Lucan Jesus, the danger of temptation, which causes one to lose faith, is real.
 - Lk's use of *peirasmos* (Acts 20:19) suggests the word is *not restricted to an eschatological trial*
 - Extended to the constant danger of apostasy.
 - Includes all temptation & hardships that can cause a disciple of Jesus to fall away from faith (Lk 8:13).
 - Jesus does not tell the disciples that God causes someone to fall into temptation.
 - Jesus reminds the disciples that God's will determines everything.
 - They are to pray that they may not succumb to temptation
 - Like Jesus, they are to surrender to the will of God (Lk 22:42).
 - They are to pray more fervently & persistently (Lk 22:44; 11:5-8; 18:1-8)
 - Pray to the Father who will give them the "*good thing*" - the Holy Spirit (Lk 11:13).
 - The Holy Spirit will teach them what they are to say
 - When they are led before the rulers & authorities (Lk 12:11).
 - The suffering of Jesus is the great contest between God & the Evil One.
 - The disciples must be prepared to enter into the same struggle.
 - NT refers to this great struggle of the end time as a time of tribulation.
 - Jesus prepares his disciples for this coming contest (e.g. Mk 13)
 - Insistent warning to watch & be prepared.
- In context of Jesus' preaching it is a fervent prayer to be spared events of final tribulation
 - Given the grace of perseverance.
 - Expresses our hope to escape the destructive power of Satan
 - A fervent cry to reign at last triumphant with Christ

The church applies all the petitions of the *Our Father* to daily life.

- It is a petition for God's grace to overcome the temptations to sin that arise each day.
 - A prayer for the grace of perseverance
 - The difficulties of life often make faith very difficult.
- Classical theology: two great sins against the virtue of hope - presumption & despair.
 - In this petition we pray that the difficulties of life will not lead us into despair.

- Paul encourages us towards hope & perseverance (2 Tim 2:11-13)
 - Our hope is based on Christ's faithfulness to us.
 - We do not walk alone; Christ walks with us.
- Gabriel Marcel (1889-1973): we can commit ourselves to the process of being faithful.
 - We can pledge ourselves to fidelity one day at a time
 - Creative fidelity.
- Temptation comes from the Evil One or Satan.
 - A petition to keep us free from the wiles or temptations of the devil
 - "Deliver us from the evil one."
 - Can refer to a thing (neut.) "evil"; or a person (masc.), "the evil one."
- Jesus concludes the *Lord's Prayer* teaching us that we need to rely on God.

Final affirmation

- "For the kingdom, the power & the glory are yours, now & forever. Amen"
 - David's blessing prior to anointing of Solomon as king (1 Chron 29:11-13)
 - Jews in Jesus' day often added personal petitions or acclamations of praise
 - Early church followed Jewish practice?

Embolism after the Our Father

- Origin of "embolism"
 - Grk: εν (en) or εμ (em) = "in" or "on"
 - Grk: βολισμός (bolismos) from verb βαλειν (balein) = "to throw", "to put" or "to place".
- Expands final petition of the *Our Father*: "Deliver us from evil."
 - Every type of evil.
 - Lead to peace = maturity, integration or harmony
 - "Help of God's mercy" – in battle with evil & sin we are not alone: "I will be with you!"
 - "Keep us safe from all distress"
 - "As we await the blessed hope & the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ."
 - Peace now & in the future.
 - Deliverance from the power of evil
 - For the entire community of the faithful,
 - In the present day & into the future.
- Response: "For the kingdom, the power & the glory are yours, now & forever."
 - King James Version (KJV)
 - Jewish *Berakah*
 - Vatican II

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