

SEEKING HIM

SEEKING HIM WITH HUMILITY

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Luke 11:4, James 1:13-16

Over the last several weeks we have examined Luke 11:1-4 in great detail. I pray that you will complete this study remembering four simple truths: 1) we need to seek the Lord, 2) we need to seek Him daily, 3) we need to seek Him honestly, 4) we need to seek Him with humility.

Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.
Isaiah 55:6–7 (NASB95)

As we conclude our study let's examine the last phrase in Luke 11:4, "And lead us not into temptation." Jesus taught His disciples to ask God for help when facing trials and temptations. We are reminded in James 4:10 to "Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you." When we pray, we are to approach the Father with a heart of humility that acknowledges our need for His help, protection, and guidance.

KEY THOUGHT

Seek God with humility, asking Him for help to face trials and temptations.

The word "temptation" is *peirasmos*. It's a neutral word. It means a trial, a test, temptation (James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 5:10). This petition brings to our mind that we are surrounded at all times by evil, which tempts us and can cause us to fall. Don't leave us in the place where temptation will naturally come to us. God never tempts or influences His children to do evil. God doesn't lead us into sin, but He allows us to face trials/temptation for the purpose of making us victorious Christians. If we fall, we have only ourselves to blame (James 1:13-16) "Lead us not into temptation" – we are asking God not to withdraw His guiding and protecting hand from us.

(Matthew 6:13, 1 Corinthians 10:12-13, John 17:15, James 4:7, Psalm 119:11)

A prayer of humility – "And lead us not into temptation."

11:4 μη εἰσενεγκῆς [*mē eisenegkēis*] occurs (second aorist subjunctive with μη [*mē*] in prohibition, ingressive aorist). "Bring us not" is a better translation than "lead us not." There is no such thing as God enticing one to sin (James 1:13). Jesus urges us to pray not to be tempted as in Luke 22:40 in Gethsemane. ¹

[¹] Robertson, A. (1997). Word Pictures in the New Testament. Vol.V c1932, Vol.VI c1933 by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. (Lk 11:1). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

SEEKING HIM

- **Admission** - my weakness
- **Recognition** – the danger, the fallen world is an ever-present threat, the evil one
- **Protection**
- **Direction**
- **Deliverance**
 - o Deliverance from the corruption of our own hearts
 - o Deliverance from the evil of the darkening of our conscience
 - o Deliverance from the lowering of your upward look
 - o Deliverance from degrading God’s standards
 - o Deliverance from the loss of faith
 - o Deliverance from the chilling of our spiritual fervor
 - o Deliverance from sinning against God and man
 - o Deliverance from the loss of consciousness of God’s presence
 - o Deliverance from becoming comfortable in the presence of evil

“The petition is really, “Lord, protect us from running in the direction of sin in our trials,” does that kind of convey the thought? Protect us from running in the direction of sin in the midst of our trial. Cause us not to enter. The original Aramaic would be, “Cause us not to enter,” kind of causative or with a permissive force. Don’t allow us to enter any devastating temptation, any trial that pushes us over the edge. Another way to look at it would be to say, “Give us the necessary strength that we might not find our trials turning into temptations.” You know, we’re going to live our lives and we’re going to be under assault all the time, the world the flesh, the devil. You’re saying, “Lord, protect us, we depend on you.” Don’t get too convinced that you’re capable on your own, you’re not. So you pray preemptively against these kinds of strikes. “I know temptation is going to come in my trials, but when it does, I want you to make sure You lead me in the direction of obedience.” ²

Ephesians 6:18 (NASB95) With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.

^[2] MacArthur, J. (1989). Matthew. Chicago: Moody Press.