



# Hardest Prayer You'll Ever Pray...

WEEK 8 • "Lead us NOT into temptation..." • Matthew 6:5-15, ESV

<sup>5</sup>"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>7</sup>"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for

your Father knows what you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup>Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. <sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread, <sup>12</sup>and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. <sup>14</sup>For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup>but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

## HAVE YOU EVER SEEN AN "INVISIBLE FENCE"?

There is a natural way which a dog will act *unless* he is restrained. Who is a man's best friend? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who is a Dog's best friend? \_\_\_\_\_. There is a reason for that: we are very much alike. Genesis 6:5-  
*"The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time."*

## ANOTHER REASON FOR THE FENCE

It is there to restrain the natural inclinations of a \_\_\_\_\_ chasing cars, etc. Protection of the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. He needs a master who will direct and lead him away from his natural inclinations.

## "BOW, WOW," THAT'S US, ISN'T IT?

Left to \_\_\_\_\_ (we will chase the cars of sin until it kills us— We've been freed, in Christ, from the consequences of sin, but we need to be freed from it's control as well. Jesus is our master, our 'debts' have been forgiven, and we 'live' with him, but many of us sit on the porch chasing every car that comes by— its in our \_\_\_\_\_. It is our basic instinct to sin. Without \_\_\_\_\_  
man will naturally do the very things that will end his life.

## SO THE MASTER INSTRUCTS US TO PRAY, "LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION..."

Jean (John) \_\_\_\_\_ interpreted the verse this way: *"That we may not be led into temptation, deliver us from evil."* In a very crude sense we are standing in aisle 11 of Pet Depot *asking* our master to buy an invisible fence to protect us from ourselves.

"Dear God, I know my \_\_\_\_\_, I know my \_\_\_\_\_, I've seen my \_\_\_\_\_, my lack of zeal for the kingdom, my battle against your will, my discontentment with what you've provided *daily*, and my unforgiveness toward others. Please Sir, BUY ME A FENCE! Protect me from myself! Lead me not into temptation!"

Jesus instructs the sheep to ask for \_\_\_\_\_, to lead them far from temptation.

JESUS' INSTRUCTION DOESN'T IMPLY GOD'S UNWILLINGNESS TO LEAD.  
IT SHOWS OUR SUBMISSION TO HIS LEADING. CROSSING OUR FINGERS...

I'm afraid that this is one of those petitions where we "\_\_\_\_\_". We implore the God of Heaven to 'lead us not into temptation', but then we hold up our hand and show our crossed fingers. In a sense, we want to ask God for the invisible fence, but then we want to take *off* the radio collar after it's installed!

TEMPTATION: MEN ARE FROM ISRAEL, WOMEN ARE FROM MOAB...

Where do \_\_\_\_\_ REGULARLY 'cross their fingers'? Desiring sex, immorality and lust.

The problem is not that we don't HATE our sin. The problem is that we don't HATE it enough! Men substitute sex for true Biblical intimacy and *temporarily* find comfort in pornography and immorality. At the end of the day the reason that lust is so addictive is that it will NEVER satisfy, it is a fire that can never be quenched, It is like chasing a car down the street thinking that will give you the feeling of being that "L.L. Bean" dog lying on the cedar bed by the fire. It will never satisfy!

Where do \_\_\_\_\_ REGULARLY 'cross their fingers'? Being objects of desire, beauty & lust.

Generally, women don't struggle as much with chasing the cars of lust down the street. They just want to be the cars. Think about it ladies. Of your most recurring, unconquerable sins how many of them stem from a desire to be desired, or to be beautiful, or to be the object of true Biblical intimacy. This evidences itself in hundreds of ways— from the way you eat, or don't; from the way you idolize your body, or hate it; from the way you over-focus on your appearance, or ignore it. What about gossip, backbiting, and slander? One of the reasons that people tear each other down is to build themselves up. If we can convince people that every other car on the road *isn't worth driving*, then maybe people will think I'm a Porsche.

UNCROSSING OUR FINGERS...

I am NOT TALKING ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_! Moralism says, "You're bad. Be better!"

The Gospel says, "You are a sinner, that's worse than you think, you can't be better! Only Jesus was better!" I'm not talking about being better, I'm talking about being redeemed.

BEING SAVED IS BETTER THAN BEING BETTER.  
SAVED PEOPLE LOVE WHAT HE LOVES AND HATE WHAT HE HATES.

Paul said in Romans 12:1 *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy (keeping your eyes locked on the Gospel), to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship!"* If the \_\_\_\_\_ hasn't compelled you to holiness, then perhaps you haven't heard the TRUE Gospel. You belong to Christ. Your debts are forgiven. You are accepted as righteous in God's sight. He is your master. The street is where dogs \_\_\_\_\_, not live. That's the point!

A PRAYER OF PROTECTION FROM THE VERY THING THAT ALMOST KILLED US FOREVER.

What's so hard about this? We are, by nature, dogs who run in the street. Crossing the wire hurts both ways. It is a reminder of what we have done wrong, but also a hammering and a molding of our wills to the image of the one who put in the fence. *Pray that God makes us people who enjoy being on the porch with HM more than being in the street-* "Lead us NOT into temptation!"