

Sermon Series: The Lord's Prayer- Jesus' School of Prayer: Your Kingdom Come

The Seventh Petition: Deliver Us From Evil.

Matthew 6.13, 8.28-34, 12.22-29.

1. a. Can the tools of this world- politics, military might, medicine, technology- eradicate evil?

b. What evidence can you see in the world that evil has a mind, a logic? That evil originates in a purposeful evil person?
2. a. The Bible teaches us that evil originates in evil spiritual personalities who are beyond the natural world. According to Jude verse 6, who are they?

b. Read Matthew 12.25-28. According to **Jesus**, who are these evil spiritual personalities?
3. Read Matthew 8.28-34.
a. Describe the symptoms of demon possession. What's the experience of these two men like?

b. What do you notice about how the demons, who have possessed the two men, respond to Jesus?

c. What kind of power and authority does Jesus have, in the spiritual realm?
4. Read this quote from philosopher and Christian thinker, Dr John Frame:
 'Part of the problem is that modern people have lost touch with the supernatural and preternatural. They have become sceptical of any world or any beings beyond those that are detectable by our senses. Christians believe in God, but have absorbed enough of the anti-supernaturalism of modern culture that belief in angels seems foreign to them... but scripture mentions angels over 300 times. This suggests we need to take angels into account...'
 (John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*, p253-4).

What do find interesting about this reflection? Do you agree that contemporary Australians are in general insensitive to the realm of angels and fallen angels (demons)? Provide reasons for your answer.

5. So when Jesus teaches us to pray 'deliver us from evil' who is he wanting us to resist?

6. The characteristic schemes of the evil one are temptation (eg. Matthew 4.1), deception (eg. Matthew 13.18-19), physical attack (eg. Job 1-2), accusation (Satan can mean 'the accuser' eg. Zechariah 3.1-5) and demon possession (see question 3).

Which of these schemes are harder for you to detect? Why?

7. We can resist the evil one by naming his schemes as they afflict us, repenting where we have partnered with evil, proclaiming Jesus' supreme power and authority over our enemy, and commanding Satan and evil spirits to depart from us.

a. Why is it important to both believe and *speak out loud* this kind of deliverance prayer?

8. Above all, why can we be confident that our enemy will depart from us, when we pray for deliverance?

Rev. Glen Macrae.