

Lead Us Not Into Temptation

Matthew 6:5-15

1) Temptation

- A summary of Jesus on temptation: *Temptation is to be taken very seriously (ex. Luke 17:1-2), but never as an excuse to sin.*
- Temptation is like a flame being turned up... higher, hotter. It makes sin more attractive, but it doesn't force us to sin.
 - o A big promise: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." 1 Cor 10:13

2) "Lead us not into temptation."

- The theological problem: Does God *tempt* us?
 - o No, see James 1:13

o But He *did lead* Jesus into temptation and testing, although it was the devil tempted him (Matthew 4:1)

3) "But deliver us from evil."

- The solution relies on God's power and action, not ours!

Practical guidance:

- "Pray that you won't fall into temptation!" (Luke 22:40) Jesus says this to his disciples at Gethsemane.
- But if you can: flee temptation (1 Cor 6:18; James 4:7). *The house is on fire. No time to pack your suitcase.*
- And even better: don't go near temptation (Prov 5:8). *If you're tempted to rob banks, don't hang out in a bank lobby.*