

1st Sunday Lent. March 3, 2020
Interim Pastor: Rev. Kevin Hilgendorf

"I can resist anything except temptation" Pastor Ray shared at a clergy gathering.

Different morning prayer. Lord thank you for keeping me good today, I haven't hurt anybody nor lied to any one, nor being rude to my neighbor, nor selfish, nor indecent but lord I am going to need all your help to keep it that way as soon as I get out bed!

The Sixth Petition:

Lead us not into temptation was what I was taught prior to my pastorate at St. David. The pastor I followed taught the congregation the updated wording of the Lord's Prayer so I learned to pray "Save us from the time of trial." What does this mean? It is true God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mis lead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, and that although we may be attacked-by them, we may finally prevail and gain the victory. Pg. 1164 ELW

Verse 3 With One Voice #783 We shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Alleu-alleluia. I know this and sometimes I live this way. Not to long ago I was visiting Washington DC with a friend. On a nice day we decided to eat outside at a French Cafe. We were seated right along the side walk. Besides our French Onion Soup and sandwiches our waiter brought us a basket of assorted breads. Tourists started to gather and wait near our table. Then two tour buses arrived. More people appeared. Then suddenly a person came to our table asking for bread. I said "no" and quickly my neighbor moved to another table or just kept walking. I felt bad. I did not share. We Finished our meal and with bread bag in hand I searched for my hungry neighbor to no avail. Upon reaching the next tourist site, I was not allowed to bring food. I placed it on the trash receptacle and prayed. Sometimes I live by the word of God and sometime not. I recall what my friend, retired nurse, would say, "What are you going to change so that won't happen again?"

Yes, I am willing to change and this hymn 801 ELW suggests where to start.

"Change my heart O God; make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you. You are the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; that is what I pray."

The story in Matthew's Gospel was meant to be understood broadly, addressing fundamental temptations of humankind for the self and to consider the human condition from the viewpoint of Christ who overcame temptation. Paul in Romans 12 in Contemporary Language of The Message writes. " So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your going-to-work, and around life- and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out."

Frank G Honeycutt writes in "One man's obedience". ... "What does Jesus offer us...? Paul makes an audacious claim; "So by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous" (Romans 5:19) Jesus offers grace and forgiveness, yes. But also, a way of obedience. He saves us not only with his death but also with his life, his ways... God's written word isn't some magic totem to ward off all evil... Immersion in the Bible's pages won't prevent all heartache in this life, but it provides 'a way' through the wilderness. One man's obedience suggests the shape of our own." (March 2020 Living Lutheran.).

Now the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.