

April 13, 2025

SALT CO

The Seventh Window: On Deliverance

“Deliver us from the evil one.”

Matthew 6:13b

***[For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen”]***

WELCOME TO THE SALT CO!

Welcome those who are joining us online.

Let us know you're here! Email us at seasonedadults@calvarywestlake.org

This is the HUB of Seasoned Adult Ministry. For anyone new...by SEASONED ADULTS we mean:

SEASONED AS IN...

Chronologically-- we've lived a lot of seasons of life

BUT more importantly-

Spiritually--- ...like when sodium and chlorine combined are transformed through a visible chemical reaction to make SALT... by the grace of God, when we receive Christ into our lives, we become like THIS [gesture: one hand—two hands—joined together.

JESUS CALLS US THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

And this is the SALT CO (where we pull off the road to gather, AND share stories about how to faithfully navigate the ever-changing terrain on Route 60+; and Route 60++...and +++...

A place where we:

Re-fresh

Re-fuel

And sometimes even...*Re-tool*

SEVEN WINDOWS

We have been taking a tour with Jesus through His House of Prayer in what we call the Lord's Prayer to try to see what He sees, what He has in Mind for this world and us in it.

1. First window opens on our Father in heaven's joy in being glad to be together with us whom He created in His own image. Our Father's joy is contagious!
2. So at the Second Window we pray to "hallow", that is like rightly angled mirrors –God Positioned Souls- "reflect" His name out into the world. What shines is beautiful!
3. In the Third Window we pray for His kingdom to come, his will to be done right where you are, where I am. This is our calling from which there is no retirement! This is the window on the coming new creation.
4. The Fourth Window opens on our Lord's daily provision- what Jesus calls our "daily bread"- that gives us every reason to celebrate God's goodness.
5. The Fifth Window shines deeply into our own hearts. When we pray for our Father's forgiveness as we forgive others, we are praying to let Him pry open our fists so His mercy can also flow through us. I heard this recently, "What God can flow through you God can give to you". This is the window on our freedom.
6. We open the Sixth Window when we pray, "***Lead us not into temptation***". This to pray for strength, to have the courage to stay awake, alert, ready, to watch with our Lord because He knows far better than we what we are up against, what we cannot handle on our own.

Praise God there is a Seventh Window. It opens when we pray,

“Deliver us from the evil one”

Would you join me in prayer...

Some translations put it, ***“Deliver us from evil”***.

The reason for this difference is that in the New Testament Greek there is a definite article “the” in front of the word “evil” [PORNEIA], the root for our word “pornography”. Put literally, the translation would read, “Deliver us from the evil”, or “the evil one”.

There is a great deal of scripture to support the translation we’re using.

John 17:15- ***“I am not asking that You take them out of the world, but I ask that You protect them from the evil one [TOU PONEIROU]”***

I John 2:13- ***“I am writing to you, young people, because you have conquered the evil one [TON PONEIRON].”***

I John 3:12- ***“We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one [TON PONEIRON] and murdered his brother...”***

I John 5:18- ***“We know that those who are born of God do not sin, but the one who was born of God protects them, and the evil one [HO PONEIROS] does not touch them.”***

All to say four things about evil:

Four underlined points building

1. Evil is “live” spelled backwards.
 - a. “When human beings worship that which is not God, they give authority to forces of destruction and malevolence, and these forces gain a power.”

(N.T. Wright. The Lord and His Prayer, p. 71)

2. Evil is personal

- a. George Ladd warned against turning evil into something “abstract”, a “concept”, a point of theology. No. It is always personal.
- b. Solzhenitsyn’s observation. The line between good and evil runs through every human heart. He was talking about the effects of evil, what it does to people, how we can become caught up, used, numbed, neutralized, distracted, put to sleep. But hear this, if Christ is in you [like THIS], the evil one is not!

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38-39

3. Evil is intentional

- a. We meet up with it in personal form in the Garden of Eden in the form of a serpent (NAHASH), as the opposer in Job (“Satan” means “opposer”), as the devil, the tempter trying to undo Jesus at the beginning of his ministry out in the wilderness. Peter tells us evil prowls around looking for someone to devour (I Peter 5:8).
- b. Paul writes in Ephesians 6:11-

“Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

DIABOLOS- DIA=split into two, BOLOS= WILL. (accuse, confuse, divide)

4. Evil defies “explanation”

A professor in seminary made an observation that I've pondered all these years. That if we can explain something, then we can find a way to accept it. We can even believe we've got this under control! Thing is there is no root explanation offered in God's word, no "theology of evil". We are left with its "unacceptability", the feeling that this is a scandal, it does not belong. It is like a parasite. Exactly!

This one word, PORNEIA (evil), sums up all the dangers without and within as expressions of the naked power present and future, of Satan.

Jesus has us praying for deliverance! For one obvious reason, without God's deliverance we are doomed! In Bible terms, we would remain "slaves in Egypt", "exiles in a strange land".

The Bible witness to God's mighty Hand taking the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt is that this was just the *beginning* of their deliverance. Once out, there remained the daunting task of delivering them from their old ways. You can take the slave out of Egypt, but it is another matter to take Egypt out of the slave.

Delivering Israel out of Babylon, returning them to their homeland was *only the beginning*. It would take five hundred years more for *some* of them to experience the true end of their exile in new life in Jesus. Jesus is called the new exodus.

The witness of God's word is that deliverance takes time. It's long, slow, difficult because we are difficult. Think about your own story. When have you experienced "deliverance"? Perhaps it was from an abusive relationship, an addiction, from a toxic work situation. You know the journey was not easy. You did not get delivered alone. it took others alongside you, and it took courage to let go of old ways, old stories you told yourself, and to begin with God's great love, to tell yourself new stories that helped you walk in new ways, with new habits.

Deliverance happens always with one next right step at a time.

I have a question: How does our Lord want to deliver you?

I ask for two reasons. First, because we are delivered from what it is that holds us captive. But secondly, and this too often we fail to ask, what are we being delivered to? For?

After 26 months as a prisoner of war my dad was liberated from Stalag III B south and east of Berlin. He and thousands of other Americans were forced march away from the coming Russians hot on the Germans' heels. But at the same time, as he was marching away from captivity, he was also marching to his freedom, to awaiting trucks, and care, good food, then onto ships that sailed them home, so my dad could make a bee line to my mom's house in northeast Iowa where he proposed marriage, and together they traveled west to start a new life in California...

My dad was delivered **from** captivity by soldiers under Hitler's totalitarian control, **for...** *a new life of great* as a free citizen in his home country.

What does it mean that Jesus teaches us to pray "deliver us FROM the Evil One?" Is it just a get out of "jail" free card that gets us into Heaven when we die? NO!

We are delivered **FROM** our own sin and the power of SIN under the domination of the Evil one, **FOR** a new life as active participants/co-laborers with Christ in His redemptive work on the planet, under His authority and by His power at work in us right here and now. And YES, this work will continue up until and AFTER we die—when we will reign with Him in the fullness of NEW CREATION.

Dallas Willard had a succinct way to put this: "*If you want to go to heaven-now's a good time*". Eternal life is LIVING in interactive relationship with God *now*. A life that does not end. That's the gospel Jesus proclaimed.

I love Ephesians 5:10, ***“Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.”*** (Philippians 2:12-13!) It’s what we’re doing here at Calvary. I think about Homebound Bridge, new ministry of Seasoned Adults. What many of you do every Tuesday at Fresh Market. What our Table Guides do. Journey to the Cross. The Car Show. Coming alongside younger people to listen, to be with, to show them God’s grace. Even when we’re laid up in the hospital, we can bless and pray for those who walk into our room.

We are delivered for all this and more!

The apostle Paul put it simply:

“For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works [BEAUTIFUL WORKS!] which God prepared beforehand to be our WAY OF LIFE.” Ephesians 2:10

This is what we are delivered FOR.

How are we delivered?

Listen to this translation of Ephesians 6 from The Message.

“And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no weekend war that we’ll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You’ll need them throughout your life. God’s Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other’s spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.”

Reminds me of what we're seeing in through all these windows in Jesus' House of Prayer!

One more time, have a look at the Bible Project summary of what we have been exploring in the Lord's Prayer:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/lords-prayer/>

Let's talk about this.

TABLE TALK

1. What are some ways God helps you when you are facing evil and the evil one?
2. Do you have a story of deliverance you would be willing to share?
3. Pastor Thompson asked, "What is our deliverance for?" In "light" of the seven windows in Jesus' House of Prayer how would you answer this question?
4. Share a favorite Easter memory.

WRAP UP

I asked how are we delivered?

Today is Palm Sunday. The day Jesus rode into the city. If you can, see The Chosen this week to get an on the ground feel of the realities Jesus was riding into. He was "going in" to battle, to face off with evil and the evil one. To do what only God in human flesh could accomplish.

Jesus clear on His mission,

"Now is the judgement of the world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." John 12:32

Easter demonstrates that He was victorious. That now He is Lord of heaven and earth!

As you and I leave Jesus' House of Prayer see in your minds' eye these words carved over the exit:

“For Yours is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen”

Granted, these words are not found in our Gospels, but they were included within a century of Jesus teaching us how to pray. They remember I Chronicles 29:11:

“Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth are yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.” I Chronicles 29:11

And Jude 24-25,

“Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” Jude 24-25

It's good to remember that you and I can come with Jesus into His House of Prayer any time, in any place. In any moment.

His door is always open.

WALK THE TALK

1. Journey to the Cross- could use some more ushers
2. Reagan Library, April 29 9:30-1:00 sign up at website
3. Car Show coming! Flyers at back table. INVITE PEOPLE YOU KNOW WHO HAVE SHOW CARS!

4. NEXT SERIES, VIA LUCIS!

I invite you to please stand. Let's step together into our Lord's House of Prayer as we pray...

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For yours is the Kingdom, and the power

and the glory forever.

Amen.

BLESSING