

Reflection Questions: Matthew 6:5-13

For the message, "Deliver Us From Evil" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on April 14, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

MATTHEW 6:5-13

5 "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. **6** 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.

7 "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. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9** Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread,

12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

QUESTIONS

1. In his book, *Unspeakable: Facing up to Evil in an Age of Genocide and Terror*, Os Guinness asks, "Is there anything harder to face and figure out than evil?" Does that quote resonate with you? What sorts of things have made you scratch your head as you think about evil in this world? What has been the most difficult thing for you to understand?
2. When you think about the phrase that Jesus taught us to pray, "Deliver us from evil," what are some of the implicit beliefs or assumptions behind this prayer? Brainstorm as many as you can. Which one is most meaningful to you?
3. Do you find it easy or difficult to pray, "Father...deliver us from evil"? Has that always been the case with you?
 - How might your life be deepened if you were to obey Jesus by regularly praying, "Deliver us from evil"?
4. Some people might say that the problem of evil is the Achilles heel of Christianity. But at the heart of our faith is the historical event of the crucifixion of Jesus. How does this help us to understand that God isn't detached or uncaring about our pain and suffering, but has come close to it?
5. How does this prayer invite us to be a part of the answer to the prayer? In other words, how ought this prayer help propel us into a world of hurt with the hope of the gospel and with tangible acts of love, justice and mercy?