

**Sermon Series:** Teach Us to Pray – Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN – Good Friday 4/2/2010

**Title:** “Deliver Us from Evil”

**Text:** Luke 23: 33-39

**Intro.:** *Illus.: the burning of two dogs in Johnson County*

**Theme:** More than just praying that God keeps bad stuff from us, we ask that God through His Son’s death would redeem our world by defeating evil but within and outside of us and in its place let his goodness reign.

### ***Addressing prayer to the evil all around and within us***

- When sin entered into the world evil became lodged in our existence
  1. Bad people are all around us
    - a. Jesus was crucified between two “evil doers” – society categorizes and punishes sin making some more evil
    - b. **Illus.: Defining Evil**
  2. Evil is at the doorstep our each of our hearts
    - a. *But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. Matthew 15:18-19*
    - b. That is why Jewish religious leader, common folk, soldier, and malefactor alike could curse and spit at Jesus
    - c. When praying against evil, take a long look within to see that we need the Savior as much as the other guy
  3. Evil is where God isn’t
    - a. *You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell. Psalm 5:4*
    - b. Jesus went into the midst of our wickedness, took it on himself, was abandoned by God , so we never would be
    - c. **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21**
- We pray that God would deliver us from evil – for Jesus’ sake
  1. Forgive us for the evil within by doing surgery on our heart to remove the presence of evil
  2. Protect us from the overwhelming wave of evil without and keep us from slipping into practicing it out of reaction
    - a. Jesus prays for **enemies, cynics, mockers, and blasphemers**, and demonstrates self-controlled peace for us
    - b. Praying that God would keep us from reacting in evil; rather, he would help us overcome it with His goodness
    - c. **Illus.: Evil needs two victories**
    - d. *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17-18, 21*

### ***Jesus passion prayers connected to God’s goodness to overcome evil***

- Many prayer times are not structured religious things we construe as prayer but the ongoing conversation with God
  1. *Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Luke 18:7*
  2. Jesus teaches us in moment of his death God is not far off and desires to commune with us for comfort/strength
- Many were directed to God on behalf of others struggling with the evil
  1. Women along the way to the cross, a repentant thief, mother and disciple
  2. Remember that often others are struggling with you in your struggle – let Jesus minister to them through you
- Many were directed to God because of others perpetrating their evil
  1. The soldiers crucifying and the Jewish leaders who were blaspheming
  2. **Psalm 22:2-11**
  3. Empowered by Jesus’ love and forgiveness to have an unending flow of forgiveness for your persecutors
- Some were directed to God for strength in the hour of personal toll taken by evil
  1. “My God, My God . . .”; “I thirst.”; “It is finish.”; “into your hand I commit my spirit”
  2. *God has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us. 2 Corinthians 1:10*

**Johnson Co. woman arrested for burning dogs** Posted: Mar 18, 2010 3:58 PM EDT Updated: Mar 18, 2010 4:33 PM EDT  
Jeremy Brilliant/Eyewitness News Franklin - A Johnson County woman is behind bars accused of dousing her own dogs with gasoline and then burning them. The woman now faces two felony counts of animal cruelty. It happened in rural Johnson County near Clark School Road and County Road 600 North. The dogs are recovering from their injuries at the Johnson County Animal Shelter, where workers say they are in remarkably good shape considering what they've been through. One has burns on 85 percent of its body. The other not as badly burned. The woman accused of setting the dogs on fire told police she was trying to kill them because they bit her. Difficult to see because of his black coat, one of the dogs, a six-month-old puppy, suffered burns over 85 percent of his body. Some cuts are still visible on his paws. Boomer, a five-year-old, has singe marks on his fur. Both were burned with gasoline. "Injuries [so] severe, the fact that someone would do this is just beyond comprehension," said Michael Delp, Johnson County Animal Control. Kathrine Brotherton, 36, faces two counts of cruelty to an animal for intentionally harming her family's pets outside the home where she lives with her parents in rural Johnson County. According to court documents, Brotherton used a 55-gallon plastic drum. She allegedly put both dogs inside, poured gasoline on them and then used a lighter to set them on fire. Her own mother called police during the March 9th incident to report what her daughter was doing. "The allegation is that dogs were set on fire. That should be disturbing to, I would think, any compassionate person," said Brad Cooper, Johnson County prosecutor. Neighbor Shalene Eacret didn't know what happened until we told her. "Oh my gosh. That's horrible. That's absolutely horrible," said Eacret. The prognosis for both Boomer and Jake is good. The physical wounds are already healing, but it's impossible to say if they'll ever fully recover from the trauma they've been through.

### **Defining Evil**

Men do not differ much about what things they will call evils; they differ enormously about what evils they will call excusable. **G. K. Chesterton, Illustrated London News (10-23-1909)**

### **Evil Needs Two Victories**

To triumph fully, evil needs two victories, not one. The first victory happens when an evil deed is perpetrated; the second victory, when evil is returned. After the first victory, evil would die if the second victory did not infuse it with new life. **Miroslav Volf, Croation theologian (1956—)**

### **Luke 23:33-39**

<sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

<sup>35</sup>The people stood watching, and the rulers even mocked him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

<sup>36</sup>The soldiers also came up and ridiculed him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup>and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

<sup>38</sup>There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who hung there blasphemed him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" [NIV]

### **Psalms 22:2-11**

<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. <sup>3</sup>Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. <sup>4</sup>In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. <sup>5</sup>They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed. <sup>6</sup>But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. <sup>7</sup>All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: <sup>8</sup>"He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." <sup>9</sup>Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast. <sup>10</sup>From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. <sup>11</sup>Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.