

PRAYING IS A DANGEROUS THING. YOU COULD WIND UP CHANGED, YOU KNOW. THAT'S WHAT I AM TRYING TO GET ACROSS TO YOU. YOU CALLED ME, AND HERE I AM. IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP NOW. KEEP ON PRAYING. I'M INTERESTED IN THE NEXT PART OF YOUR PRAYER...(Pause) WELL, GO ON.

I'm scared to.

SCARED OF WHAT?

I know what you'll say.

TRY ME AND SEE.

*all* "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

WHAT ABOUT BILL?

See! I knew it! I knew you would bring him up! Why, Lord, he's told lies about me, cheated me out of some money. He never paid back that debt he owes me. I've sworn to get even with him!

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR PRAYER?

I didn't mean it.

WELL, AT LEAST YOU ARE HONEST. BUT IT'S NOT MUCH FUN CARRYING THAT LOAD OF BITTERNESS AROUND INSIDE, IS IT?

No. But I'll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy have I got some plans for old Bill! He'll wish he never did me any harm.

YOU WON'T FEEL ANY BETTER. YOU'LL FEEL WORSE. REVENGE ISN'T SWEET. THINK OF HOW UNHAPPY YOU ALREADY ARE. BUT I CAN CHANGE THAT!

You can? How.

FORGIVE BILL. THEN I'LL FORGIVE YOU. THEN THE HATE AND SIN WILL BE BILL'S PROBLEM AND NOT YOURS. YOU MAY LOSE THE MONEY, BUT YOU WILL HAVE SETTLED YOUR HEART.

But, Lord, I can't forgive Bill.

THEN I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU.

Oh, you're right. You always are. And more than I want revenge on Bill, I want to be right with you. (pause, sigh) All right, I forgive him. Help him to find the right road in life, Lord. He's bound to be awfully miserable now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things he does to others has to be out of it. Someday, somehow, show him the right way.

THERE NOW! WONDERFUL! HOW DO YOU FEEL?

Hmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time since I can remember. Maybe I won't be so tired from now on because I'm not getting enough rest.

YOU'RE NOT THROUGH WITH YOUR PRAYER. GO ON.

Oh, all right. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

GOOD! GOOD! I'LL DO THAT. JUST DON'T PUT YOURSELF IN A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BE TEMPTED.

What do you mean by that?

CHANGE SOME OF YOUR FRIENDSHIPS. SOME OF YOUR SO-CALLED FRIENDS ARE BEGINNING TO GET TO YOU. THEY'LL HAVE YOU COMPLETELY INVOLVED IN WRONG THINGS BEFORE LONG. DON'T BE FOOLED. THEY ADVERTISE THEY'RE HAVING FUN, BUT FOR YOU IT WOULD BE RUIN. DON'T USE ME FOR AN ESCAPE HATCH.

I don't understand.

SURE YOU DO. YOU'VE DONE IT A LOT OF TIMES. YOU GET CAUGHT IN A BAD SITUATION. YOU GET INTO TROUBLE AND THEN YOU COME RUNNING TO ME. "LORD, HELP ME OUT OF THIS MESS AND I PROMISE YOU I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN. YOU REMEMBER SOME OF THOSE BARGAINS YOU TRIED TO MAKE WITH A

*Sain*