



Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 19th to Sunday 25th October 2020

Monday

Reading – Philippians Chapter 1, verses 1 to 11

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

Lord Jesus, we ask today for love to spread across this world. It feels like love is a dirty word at the moment – a sign of weakness. May we, your followers, show the world a different way.

May we show your world what real love looks like – love with judgement, the love a child shows to their parents and to others. May we become more childlike in our love and love others as we love ourselves, just as you ask us to do. May we show the world your love for all, and in so doing may your world show your love to each other. As the writer of Philippians prayed may your love abound in this world, and may your whole world come to have a knowledge and depth of insight so that we all can discern what is best, so that your whole world may be pure until your day. May we all be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through you, Lord Jesus, and live our lives to the glory and praise of your father and our Father, the Almighty God, Amen

Tuesday

Reading – John Chapter 13, verses 12 to 20

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

Lord Jesus, when you washed your disciples feet, we know that you weren't just showing them what they should be doing, but showing us too. We need to go out in your name and do the small things, the things that others think should be done by someone at the level of a servant, in your name and for you. We need to do the little things that people won't notice are actually being done until they are not, whether we are thanked or not. As you washed your disciples feet, so do we need to wash each other's feet – to become a servant just as you were the servant king. Help us to follow your example every day and do and act as you did – not afraid to become servant-like in our lives, so more people will see you at work in this world, and in seeing you at work, will come to know why you are so important to everyone, and come to you themselves. Amen

Wednesday

Reading – Philippians Chapter 2, verses 1 to 13

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lord God, this world seems so far away from being in a position where every knee is going to bow at the name of your Son Jesus. Lord Jesus, you have done everything for us and everything for this world, by dying on a cross and then being resurrected, and yet so many people in this world seem disinterested in you or simply don't care. Lord God, may all people in this world look at your Son Jesus afresh today and realise how amazing He is and how amazing you are, and so take the walk with Him, even though it will be a difficult walk at times, but also knowing that it will never be found wanting, because, difficult or not, it is the only way to be, the only way to go, if we want to claim your gift of eternal life for ourselves. Lord God may this World truly come to that place where every knee will bow at the name of your Son Jesus and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to the glory of you, our Father
God, Amen

Thursday

Reading – Ephesians Chapter 3, verses 14 to the end

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Lord God, you are able to do more than we can think of, more than we can ask for and more than we can imagine. We ask Lord God, just as Paul prayed for the Ephesians, that we may be rooted and established in love, and that we may have the power, together with all your people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. We acknowledge the fact that you are at work within us and we ask that more and more people in this world would come to see that fact for themselves. And we pray, heavenly God, that all we do and all we say may be for your glory and for the glory of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Friday

Reading – John Chapter 14, verses 1 to 14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Lord Jesus, we thank you for all the wonderful and amazing things you said during your time on earth. We particularly thank you for saying to your disciples, and therefore to us, that we do not need to let our hearts be troubled because you went to prepare a place for us in heaven and that should be all that matters. We are thankful that you came to earth to make that possible for us and to give us a way to heaven that we couldn’t have had otherwise, by taking on all of our sins yourself and dying the death we should have died instead. Help us to avoid sin and, when we do sin to come to you to repent and start again, safe in the knowledge that that is what you allow us to do. Because of you we know the way to God and to heaven because you told your disciples and you now tell us, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.” Jesus, you are the only way, because of what you did for us. Help us to never stop being so grateful for what you did and to not waver from the way – to not waver in our faith in you. Amen.

Saturday

Reading – John Chapter 14, verses 15 to the end

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Lord Jesus, help us to keep your commands because we love you so much doing anything else would be nonsensical. In so doing, we ask that your Spirit would come upon us and upon your whole world so all may recognise you for who you are. So many people on this planet have a Jesus-shaped hole in their hearts but refuse to see it. May we, your followers, by keeping your commands, help people to recognise what we already know, so that they too may ask you into their lives, and more and more people would know as their Saviour. Thank you Lord Jesus that, through the promised Spirit, we still have you leading us and guiding us – help us all to recognise that in our lives and do what is right for you and continue our walks with you, safe in the knowledge of what comes at the end – eternal life with you. And how do we know this? Because you are our advocate in heaven – you argue for us with God, and you win because you died for us to save us from our sin. Because of you, we are children of God – thank you Lord Jesus for always being there and never leaving us or your world. Amen

Sunday

Reading – Mark Chapter 12, verses 28 to 34

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Lord Jesus, just as the teacher of the law who came to you in Mark’s gospel knew, may we too know that to love the Lord our God with all our heart, souls and minds and to love our neighbours as ourselves is more important, immeasurably more important than anything else. Nothing comes close. Help us when we are making things more important than those two commandments in our lives – when we are spending way more time on wastes of time that get us nowhere rather than focussing on you. May our renewed focus on you become so absolute that no one will be able to ignore it, so that more and more people’s eyes will become open and see it for themselves so we can all come closer and closer to your kingdom – the Kingdom of God Amen