



# Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Monday (David)**

**Reading – Luke Chapter 6, verses 36 to 38**

**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”**

Lord Jesus, help us all to be more like you. Help us to be merciful, non-judgemental and not to condemn. Help us to forgive others as we would like to be forgiven ourselves. And help us, when we are struggling to forgive past events, to be able to come to you and ask you to help us get into a position to forgive. May all we do be measured by you and not found wanting, so that we can get the same from you, our Lord and our Saviour, Amen

**Tuesday (Chad)**

**Reading – Hebrews Chapter 2, verses 1 to 9**

**We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? You made them a little<sup>lq</sup> lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honour and put everything under their feet.” In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.**

Lord God, during this time of Lent, we thank you for sending Jesus to us to save us from our sins. Help us to know afresh this Lent that Jesus is crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by your grace he might taste death for all of us. Thanks to Jesus, none of us need to worry about death, because we have eternal life in you. Lord Jesus, help us to give you the glory in all we do in our lives and live for you every day of our lives

Amen

**Wednesday**

**Reading – John Chapter 6, verses 60 to the end**

**On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you - they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.” From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.” Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)**

Lord Jesus, help to us to be as sure as Simon Peter during this toughest of times. There are so many reasons we could give to leave you, but when you ask us “You do not want to leave too, do you?” we can say with all confidence, “To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life and we know you are the Holy One of God.” Lord Jesus, you are the one and only Son of God and Son of Man, you are our Saviour, our Messiah. Thank you Lord Jesus for all you have done and continue to do for us. Amen

**Thursday**

**Reading – Jeremiah Chapter 17, verses 5 to 10**

**This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.”**

Lord Jesus, help us to fully trust in you and be blessed by you. We want to be like a tree planted by water that has green leaves. We want to be a tree that produces much good fruit for you, and play our part in your harvest, and bring more people to you. May our hearts be pure and loving so that when you search it, it may be found to be right and not deceitful. Be with us this Lent, and help us to know you and be with you, this time and always, Amen

Friday

Reading – John Chapter 7, verses 14 to 24

**Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. The Jews there were amazed and asked, “How did this man get such learning without having been taught?” Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?” “You are demon-possessed,” the crowd answered. “Who is trying to kill you?” Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man’s whole body on the Sabbath? Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”**

Lord Jesus, we know where you got your learning from. We know that you are the Son of God and you are our Messiah. Help us to do as you did and not judge by mere appearances but to judge correctly. Help us to never forget that you are the learned one, and that your life and teaching were for God and from God. Be with us now, and help us to live for you. Amen

Saturday

Reading – John Chapter 7, verses 25 to 36

**At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill? Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? <sup>27</sup> But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.” Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.” At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, “When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?” The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him. Jesus said, “I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me. You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.” The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? What did he mean when he said, ‘You will look for me, but you will not find me,’ and ‘Where I am, you cannot come’?”**

Lord Jesus, you are the Messiah. You were on the earth for a short time, but during that time you turned the world upside down - thank you Jesus that you did that, and showed us how to live the right way in the process. May we know you and come to you afresh this Lent, and may we know that, though you are now back with your Heavenly Father, your Spirit is with us all, to help us live for you. Be with us now, and always, Amen

## Sunday

### Reading – Philippians Chapter 4, verses 4b – 14

**If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**

Lord Jesus, the Christ, we too want to know you intimately. We want to know the power of your resurrection and attain the eternal life which we are promised. But we know we are not there yet, by any means, but help us to give all we have to press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called us – eternal life with him through you, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen