



Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 11th – Sunday 17th October

Monday

Reading – John Chapter 13, verses 1 to 11

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

Lord Jesus, when we read this passage, we know that you are showing your disciples, and us, the right way to live. May we do as you have done, and in what ever way we can, put washing the feet of others into action, working in our lives to live for you and to live how you want us to live. And in so doing, may we continue to show others the right way to live in the same way that you have showed us by your life and your actions on Earth. 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. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfil this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.'

"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

Lord Jesus, you call us to be servants and we struggle to do so. Help us to do as you have asked and be servants to all, serving others. May this whole world becoming a serving world, where everyone serves everyone else, and where everyone supports everyone else. May this world truly become your world, and become a place of true harmony where no one is only serving themselves but rather where everyone is serving you, through serving others. Amen

Wednesday

Reading – Philippians Chapter 2, verses 1 to 13

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming 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 name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.

Lord Jesus, we are desperate for this world to be the place where every knee will bow and every tongue confess that you are Lord. Help us to do all we can to make this happen. Help us to do your work on earth, and spread your good news, so that more and more people will bow and every tongue confess your name. Only by us, your followers, teaching others about you can more and more people come to you, and only when more and more people come to you will this world truly become ever closer to being the world you created. Please, Lord Jesus, being about that change through us so that at your name every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that you are Lord. Amen

Thursday

Reading – Psalm 117

Praise the LORD, all you nations;
extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Praise the LORD.

Lord God, in the middle of the week, it is good to take time out and simply praise you. May the words of this psalm be our prayer today – may all nations praise you, may all people extol you. May the whole world know how great your love is towards them, and how your faithfulness endures forever. May we and all peoples truly praise you Lord God, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen

Friday

Reading – Luke Chapter 12, verses 1 to 7

Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. “I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Lord Jesus, thank you for reminding us all that we are never forgotten by God. Thank you for reminding us how much we are worth to God and how much he cares about us. In the same way, help us to show God how much we care about him in our lives. Help us to love God but also, as you tell us to do, to fear him too as he can send us to hell. At the same time, we know how much he loves us and wants us to praise him and glorify him in our everyday lives. Help us to live as remembered people – people who have you and your Father God on our side, loving us and wanting the best for us. Thank you Lord Jesus for what you have done for us, and thank you God for being our loving, remembering and fearful God. Amen

Saturday

Reading – Luke Chapter 12, verses 8 to 12

“I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. “When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

Lord Jesus, help us to acknowledge you in every aspect of our lives, so that more people may come to you. We recognise you and acknowledge you and know you – you are our Lord and Saviour. At this same time we also see in ourselves those times when we have spoken words against you, by saying things that you would not want us to say. We know that we have sinned against you and we thank you that by recognising our sin, repenting of it and coming to you for forgiveness, you promise that you will forgive us. We come to you as forgiven people, but we don’t want to take that forgiveness for granted. Help us not to blaspheme against you, the Father or the Holy Spirit so we can always be forgiven people. Thank you Lord Jesus for being there for us, forgiving us and loving us so much that you died for us. Amen

Sunday

Reading – Mark Chapter 10, verses 35 to 45

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”

“What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.”

“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

“We can,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Lord God, Son of Man, you came not to be served but to serve, May we do likewise. May we be servants to all rather than seeking to be served. You gave your life as a ransom for many – may we now, by being servants, bring that message to many others so that more and more people may be saved. As is says in the book of Micah, may we act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our Servant God. May we be your servants too for the world. Amen