



Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 4th – Sunday 10th October

Monday

Reading – Luke Chapter 10, verses 25 to 37

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?”

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Lord Jesus, thank you for this parable that continues to speak to us today. Help us to read it afresh and take in its message once more. Help us to do as you ask us and have mercy on those around us. Help us to see all people as our neighbour and be willing help everyone, just as you did. You said to the man “Go and do likewise” – may that be us today. May we love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength and all our mind, and may we truly love our neighbours as ourselves. Let us truly live in you and bring more people to you by showing them your love for them in what we do for them.

Amen

Tuesday

Reading – Luke Chapter 10, verses 38 to the end

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed - or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Lord Jesus, there are times in our lives where we are Martha's and times when we are Mary's. Help us to discern in our lives when we are putting anything before you, and not allowing ourselves to concentrate fully on you and your teaching in our lives. Help us always to put you first, to always have time for you, and to keep our relationship with you strong. We are so lucky to be able to have a personal relationship with you, and through you with God. Help us not to take that relationship for granted but to work at it, to listen and talk to you and your Father, and to keep you at number one in our lives. In your name we pray, Amen

Wednesday

Reading – Luke Chapter 11, verses 1 to 4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Please may this world come to the point where the only time your name is said, it is done in worship to you and to give you praise. Your Kingdom come – Lord God may your Kingdom come to earth at this time when it is so needed and when so many so badly need to fill the God-shaped hole in their lives. May we play our part to help others fill their hearts with your Spirit and your presence. Give us and all people their daily bread. We know that there is enough on this planet to feed all people. May this world truly be a place where all are fed and all have enough to eat.

May your bounty truly be spread to all. Forgive us our sins Lord God. Thank you that we can come to you and know that if we ask for your forgiveness and truly repent, then you will give your forgiveness freely. We come to you, we truly say sorry for our sins, and we ask for your forgiveness. Help us in the same way to forgive all those who have sinned against us, and, when that is too hard, help us to get to a place where forgiveness can begin.

Lead us not into temptation Lord. Help us to resist all temptation, just as Jesus did in the wilderness, and help us to walk with you everyday of our lives, so temptation doesn't even get a look in. Thank you that you are our Father in Heaven and that you are always there for us. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

Thursday

Reading – Luke Chapter 11, verses 5 to 13

Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity^[e] he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Lord Jesus, sometimes we forget just how wonderful the Holy Spirit is. Sometimes we are fearful of what it can do, and are afraid to ask your Father in Heaven to give us, and cleanse us by, his Spirit when that is what we always need. Thank you for reminding us in today’s reading just how much your Father pours down his Spirit on us when we just ask.

Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened. So we ask, here and now, Lord God send your Spirit down upon us to cleanse us from within, to shine out of us to show your glory to others, and to lead us in our walks with you. We do want your Spirit, Father God, and we can’t live our lives with you without it.

Send your Spirit on us and your whole world, now and always Amen

Friday

Reading – Mark Chapter 16, verses 1 to 8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Lord Jesus, it is good for us to remind ourselves throughout the year of your resurrection. We know the story well, but we pray today that even though we know it well, may it never lose its wonder and may we never lose our awe in what happened, and may we never forget the ultimate sacrifice you made for us on that cross. You died and you were raised from death by God. You went through all that to save us from our sins – may we show that we truly understand your sacrifice by living as saved people and by spreading your word and the wonder of your death and resurrection to all we meet so that more and more people will come to you. Lord Jesus, you did die. Lord Jesus, you were risen. Lord Jesus, you will come again. Amen

Saturday

Reading – Luke Chapter 11, verses 27 to 28

As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you."

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Lord Jesus, help us to be blessed people. Help us to hear the word of God, and to obey it. Help us always to hear your message of love, peace and salvation and to act on it. If we don't, we are keeping your message to ourselves and that can never be right. We must spread your message as far and wide as we possibly can, and, in so doing, bring more and more people to you so that the whole world can know that they are saved. May all people know this message of hope and salvation, come to you, hear your word and obey it, and, in so doing, become blessed people too. In your name we pray, Amen

Sunday

Reading – Matthew Chapter 11, verses 25 to 30

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Lord Jesus, in the world at the moment so many are weary and burdened, and so many think they have nowhere to turn. We pray for all doctors, nurses and all others who work in our hospitals who are weary and burdened because of Covid and all those who are weary and burdened because of increased workloads because of the pandemic. Lord, we pray that all who are weary and burdened, for whatever reason that may be, may know that you are there for them, and that if they come to you, you will give them rest. Help us to remember that too in those times when we are so weary that nothing seems to break through and we can feel alone. Help us, and all people who feel like that, to remember the truth of this reading, and come to you and get the rest that you promise us. You are gentle and humble in heart and you love us more than anyone else ever can. Thank you Lord Jesus for being the one we can go to for rest when we are weary and burdened, and thank you that when we do, your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Amen