



Praying the Scripture - a few simple steps at home Sunday 11th August 2019

1. Start with stillness and quietening down; then gently read the passage, noticing any feelings and connections to your own experience.
2. Read the passage again and spend time noticing what you don't readily understand. *The notes in your Bible may be of help at this point.*
3. Read the passage a third time - wondering how you yourself might pray the text over the next few days.
4. Over the next week, set aside times to come back more than once to the passage.

You could read it all or part of it again, slowly. Perhaps there is a special word for you in this passage of Scripture? Keep this word or phrase in your thoughts and gently repeat it, bringing it to mind and allowing God to speak to you in your heart.

5. Finally, come back to the text to conclude: What is God in this scripture asking of you this week? What is the one challenge, one little change you are asked to make or the thing you have been asked to do? Then say a prayer of thanksgiving for the good news in the passage. End in quiet prayer.



THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL - LUKE 12:32-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?" And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."

SOME POINTERS FOR PRAYER

- *"Do not be afraid, little flock..."* Repeat this to yourself a few times, quietly. Allow yourself to hear the words. Let the love and peace of Jesus in and leave your worries or fear at His feet.
- *"You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."* Think of a time when you felt God at work in your life.
- The most precious of all the gifts we have received is the trust the Lord has shown in us by giving us his gifts. In fact, the gifts we receive are nothing more than the proof of the trust God has in us. We respond to gifts according to what we have received. The trust that God asks of us is greater than what we have already received. The trust the Lord has in us should increase our trust in him. Do you know that you are loved and are special? You should often tell yourself that you are special and loved.
- What challenge is in being put to you in today's Gospel? How will you share your talents and gifts with others

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the gifts that I have been given and make me vigilant to never lose and opportunity to use them. Strengthen my faith in you that I may be a witness to your unfailing hope. Amen