



Praying the Scripture - a few simple steps at home Sunday 25th 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 13:22-30

Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able.

When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then in reply he will say to you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!'

There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

SOME POINTERS FOR PRAYER

- Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, to his destiny. We too are on a journey through life. Someone asks Jesus if only a few will be saved. Notice Jesus doesn't answer the question directly. Our journey depends on choices we make. Is my faith a choice? What does it ask of me?
- '...try to enter by the narrow door?' What does it mean to you?
- The Gospel shows is not enough to say that we have shared a meal with Jesus (*not even the Eucharistic meal*), or to say that we have listened to his words. We must act, live and choose what is right – How is my faith and active faith? Would others know about my faith by the way I live my life and the deeds that I do?
- The Gospel ends with a stern warning - that there are those who are first who will be last and those who are last who will be first. We must be very careful not to imagine that we are in a privileged position. Who are the *Last* in our world, community today? What does today's word ask of me in my relationship and dealings with *the Last*?
- What one change does today's gospel ask of me this week?

Prayer

Loving Father, I bring my joys and hopes, my anxieties and difficulties, before you in prayer. Help me to listen to Your voice guiding me that I may come to know my own life better. May my prayer make it evident 'where I come from' – and my actions be a humble witness to what is truly important to me. Amen