



Praying the Scripture - a few simple steps at home Sunday 4th 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 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

SOME POINTERS FOR PRAYER

- The man asked Jesus to help Him in the distribution of his inheritance. What do I ask Jesus in my prayer?
- How do you plan my life? When decisions need to be made, whose guidance do I seek? Consider Jesus's statement: "*A person's true life is not made up of the things he owns.*" What things and attitudes make up my life? What can I learn from this passage about healthy and unhealthy attitudes to possessions?
- The rich farmer is a fool not because he is wealthy or because he saves for the future, but because he appears to live only for himself, and because he believes that he can secure his life with his abundant possessions. How do I live for others?
- When the rich man talks in this parable, he talks only to himself, and the only person he refers to is himself: "*What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?*" "*I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry'*" Who is at the centre of my faith? In whose image do I live my faith?
- Our lives and possessions are not our own. They belong to God. We are merely stewards of them for the time God has given us on this earth. How do I use, care for and share the gifts and talents I have been given?

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the gifts and treasure that I have been given. May I be a true steward of all I have been given and may I be unselfish as I use them in faith for the care and benefit of others. Amen