



# Praying the Scripture - a few simple steps at home

**Sunday 22nd Sept 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 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 16:1-13** *You cannot be the slave of both God and money*

*Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes."*

*Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil" was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat" was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty." 'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.*

*'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own? 'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.*

## **SOME POINTERS FOR PRAYER**

- Every human situation was, for Jesus, an opportunity to grow in wisdom. Where do I see God at work even in the most difficult of situations? Where do I see love?
- This is a difficult parable, with two lessons: first, that we should serve the Lord with even more energy and ingenuity than hustlers employ in their business dealings; and secondly that we should use our resources to help the poor. 'The only things we take with us from our life on earth are those which we have given away.
- In terms of this parable the false value is "property" and the true value is making friends. What are the things I value most in life? Are power, popularity and influence important to me?

## **Prayer**

*Lord thank you for the free spirited people you sent into my life helping me to know that it is always people who must come first, not power and influence. Forgive me for the times when I allowed myself to let my life be taken over by valuables and possessions letting them be my main pre-occupation. Help me to be a person of trust because when we are trusted in little things we will be trusted in great things. **Amen***