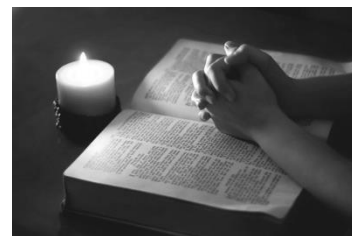




Praying the Scripture - a few simple steps at home

Sunday 29th 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 16:19-31

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

SOME POINTERS FOR PRAYER

- Who are the poor? Who are those in need at our doorstep? Do we notice or listen to them?
- There are many kinds of poverty. Do we act or than limit ourselves to "giving a donation" and not becoming personally involved?
- When have you discovered that it is when you are aware of the needs of those around you and seek to make some response that you bring out the best in yourself?
- How do we treat the poor? Do they have a name? In my attitude toward them, am I like Lazarus or like the rich man?
- How have the gospels, the scriptures or your faith opened you up to a deeper and more challenging but rewarding perspective on life?
- How do you live your life in such a way that others would know you were a person of faith?

Prayer

*O God of justice, hear our cry and save us. Give us eyes to always see the suffering in our world, give us ears to hear the voice of the voiceless, give hands to act on their behalf, voices to speak on their behalf and a heart that guides all our actions with love and compassion. Make us heed your word to the prophets; rouse us to the demand of the gospel and impel us to carry it out.. **Amen***