



Praying the Scripture - a few simple steps at home

Sunday 10th November 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 20:27-38

Some Sadducees who argue that there is no resurrection, approached Jesus and put this question to him, "Master, Moses wrote for us, if a man's married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Well then, there were seven brothers. The first, having married a wife, died childless. The second and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children. Finally the woman herself died. Now, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be, since she had been married to all seven?" Jesus replied, "The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are children of God. And Moses showed that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now He is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to Him everyone is alive."

Some scribes then spoke up. They said, "Well put, Master." They did not dare to ask Him any more questions

A THOUGHT

When core ritual practices undergo change, this indicates a major shift in worldview. A good example for today is how we conduct funerals. There was a traditional pattern which is now breaking down, even if slowly. The tradition reflected convictions: prayer for the dead, hope of eternal life, fear of judgement and so forth. The current "customisation" of funerals tells us that such a world of meaning no longer holds. What do people really think happens when we die? And yet, hope in the faithfulness of God, who raised Jesus is really at the centre of Christian faith from the very start. In any case, we're all in for a surprise

SOME POINTERS FOR PRAYER

- The question of the Sadducees suggests that our status here in this life influences how we will be in the afterlife. The reply of Jesus affirms that we are important not because of any "status" we might have but because we are children of God. Recall moments when you saw your, or the worth of another, as something other than worldly status.
- A common tactic in an argument is to make fun of the position of another. Then one does not have to take seriously the view being expressed. Have you ever found yourself doing this? Have you experienced others doing it with you? What were the effects of such an attitude? Is there life here? If not, where have you found a fuller life?
- Do you believe in the resurrection? When you say that you believe in the resurrection, do you think about something of the past, of the present or of the future? Have you ever had an experience of resurrection in your life?

Prayer

Loving God, you raised Jesus from the dead, the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Strengthen my hope in your abundant gift. I make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen