

Daily Reflection

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Daily Update – Thursday, 8th October

Good Morning Everyone,

Today's Reflection is from Ian MacLennan. Thanks Ian!

Today's readings - Galatians 3:1-5 The Benedictus Luke 11:5-13

Pause: Lord Jesus, still our hearts and minds now, as we prepare to hear from your word. Thank you for the precious gift of prayer, and for the fact that we can call the Lord God of Hosts our Father. Thank you that you are interceding for each one of us at the right hand of God. Give us confidence that we will receive all those good things which we ask for, in line with your will.

Amen

This section of Luke's gospel is the lull before the storm, in many ways. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and his death on the cross (Luke 9:51). Opposition is about to intensify as some of the Jews accuse him of being an agent of Beelzebul, the prince of demons, in the next section (Luke 11:14ff) and ultimately the Pharisees oppose Jesus fiercely and besiege him with questions (Luke 11:53). Our passage today contains teaching to his disciples about prayer and follows on immediately from the giving of the Lord's prayer.

If the words of the Lord's prayer tell us what to say (or more generally, establish an appropriate framework within which we should approach God our Father in prayer), then our passage today is concerned with how to pray. With what attitudes should we approach the Lord God, maker and sustainer of heaven and earth?

Jesus gives two earthly examples to illustrate appropriate ways to come before God in prayer.

Persistence

The example of the audacious friend who goes knocking on his neighbour's door looking for supplies is well known. We are to approach the Lord God our Father boldly, as we seek those things which are in line with his will. The very start of the Lord's prayer focuses us on the Lord God himself, as we ask him to advance his kingdom and the holiness of his name. "hallowed be your name, your kingdom come". Clearly our bold and persistent requests must be for those things which bring honour and glory to God, and advance his kingdom.

This can bring us up short, as we look again at what we are asking God for in our prayers. Are we focused more on what we (selfishly?) want, or what we have decided (based on our limited understanding) is best? Should we not instead focus our prayers on those things which are in line with God's will and are altogether better? Do we ask just once or do we persist in faithful and earnest prayer before our Father?

Trust

Again, the example of the son asking his father for things is well known. If sinful, human fathers know how to give good gifts to their earthly sons, how much more

Daily Reflection

does our perfect and loving heavenly Father know how to give good gifts to us, his spiritual children, purchased and redeemed through the death of his only son, the Lord Jesus? Clearly we need to trust that the Lord God has our very best interests at heart and will not withhold good gifts from us, even his Holy Spirit, who is available to any who ask!

In the matter of prayer we often need to take a long view, recalling that we are approaching him for whom a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord God's timeframe is different from ours and he truly knows what is best for all of us.

I am reminded of Thomas Chisholm's well known hymn as we think about trusting the Lord God's ultimate goodness and his unchanging nature, as he answers our prayers:

"Great is Thy faithfulness, " O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!

Prayer

Almighty God,
thank you that you delight to hear our prayers.
We are sorry that so often we focus on our own cares and concerns.
Teach us what brings most honour and glory to your name
and what advances your kingdom most effectively
and show us how to pray for these things.
Give us hearts which trust you and also persistence in
praying for these things.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Remember...



Daily Reflection

News

APCM

The St. John's APCM will take place via Zoom on Thursday 15th October. If you are considering standing for the PCC and would like more information, contact Gill Prosser at gill.prosser6@gmail.com.

The forms, financial accounts, minutes and link to the meeting will be sent out this week.

Tearfund Big Quiz



Last year, Tearfund raised an incredible £250,000 with 562 church and more than 26,000 people taking part. This year, the Big Quiz will take place on Saturday 14 November and this time it will be going online.

Put the date in your diaries!



Christmas Boxes – Southbourne Love your Neighbour

This year we are planning to distribute Christmas boxes to 60 families who we delivered to during lockdown. Below is a list of items we need. If you feel you would like to contribute, (it doesn't matter how big or small) could you please contact Jane Inglis at Jane@inglis3.org.

Bistro
Cellotape
Christmas pudding
Christmas cake
Christmas cards

Daily Reflection

Christmas crackers
Christmas decorations
Christmas lights
Christmas hats/antlers
Chocolate
Cranberry sauce
Custard powder
Fizz drinks no alcohol
Biscuits
Stuffing
Tinsel
Wrapping paper.

Sunday Services in October

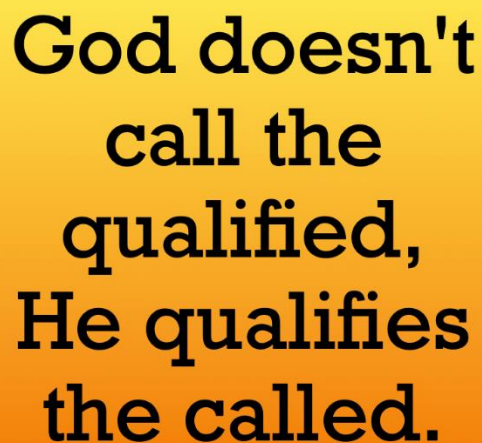
Please email me at admin@stjohnssouthbourne.com if you would like to come to any services in October.

The cut-off date for booking for each week's service is the Thursday before.

If you are unable to attend a Sunday service that you have booked, email the admin address of phone 01243 375576.

Have you got flu-like symptoms? Please don't attend Church.

Humour



**God doesn't
call the
qualified,
He qualifies
the called.**