

16. When most people were mocking Jesus' claims to be Christ, a King, Saviour and so on, what made this thief different in what he said?

17. What did the man ask Jesus to do and what do you think he meant by it?

Pray

The thief on the cross made a simple request and yet received an amazing response. At hear it is what happens when anyone comes to true faith in Jesus and turns to Him. Think about some of the non-Christians you know, who do not recognise Jesus as King or trust Him with their eternity. Pray that God would open their hearts to believe and that they too would recognise the Saviour and turn to Him to save them.

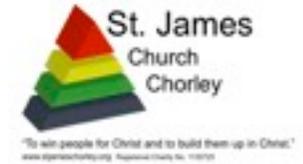
Pray for our forthcoming Christmas services that people would hear about them and come along. Pray that the services and others events would be honouring to God and would present to people the truth about Jesus; that He is the King who came for our salvation and will come again as judge.

Pray that we would not allow the festivities to make us forget why we celebrate nor that the cares of this life will make us unprepared for the day of the Son of Man.

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Teach us to Pray

Prayer in Luke's Gospel Week 5



Don't lose heart

Read Luke 18.1-8

1. It is slightly unusual for us to be told why Jesus told a particular parable but what does Luke tell us was the reason for this one?

2. Recap from the second study what was the key point in the parable of the friend at midnight (Lk 11.5-13)?

3. We thought about how the previous parable might be shocking, how does this new one compare? What is the significance of the comparison Jesus makes between the judge and God?

4. What do you think Luke means when he says that they (we) "ought always to pray"?

5 We touched on this in study 2 but what sort of things cause us to "lose heart" in prayer? How does this parable of Jesus help us not to do that?

6. At Advent we both think about the build up to Jesus' first coming and look forward to His return. What does the end of this parable teach us about Jesus' coming again?

7. Why do you think Jesus closes this parable with the question in verse 8, what does it mean, and why is it important for you?

Anna

Read Luke 2.22 & 36-38

8. Jesus' parable was about a widow who asked whilst Luke tells us about a widow who prayed 30 years earlier. She was one of many faithful Israelites who longed for and saw the coming of Christ. How long had Anna been faithful in prayer and what do we see of her faith?

9. We are told that Anna worshipped with fasting and prayer. Why do you think she fasted, and what value can it have in aiding our praying?

Stay Awake

Read Luke 21.33-36 and Mark 13.32-37

10. Jesus clearly doesn't mean in verse Lk 21.36 that we should never sleep, but what is He telling us to do?

11. Looking back at question 7 and remembering what Jesus asked, what are we also being told in Luke 21 and Mark 13 about the importance of prayer as we look for Jesus second advent (coming)?

12. Is this something that regularly features in your prayers? What sort of things do you pray, or might we pray, as Jesus says?

13. What other things is Jesus telling us to do in these passages as we look for His coming again?

14. In the Sunday sermons we have looked recently at self-control as one of the fruit of the Spirit. Read 1 Peter 4.7. What is the benefit of this fruit for our prayer life?

Crying out to Jesus

Read 23.36-43

This is the final example of people who called out to Jesus in necessity and is very well known?

15. What other options did this man have when he turned to Jesus? (We might see it as desperation but notice that the other thief did not respond in the same way.)