

Reflection for Shrove Tuesday

TUESDAY, 02/16/2021

THEME: Praying With The Lord

Hymn: Sweet Hour of Prayer <https://youtu.be/xg282my5QyU>

Psalm 4 <https://youtu.be/yjIPdolkUgw> Psalm

Chant: https://youtu.be/OLgt4pj_FZg

Scriptural Reading: MATTHEW 6: 5-16 (NIV)

5. " And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6. "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who [is] in the secret [place;] and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7. "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen [do.] For they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8. "Therefore, do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9. "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as [it is] in heaven.

11. Give us this day our daily bread. 12. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

13. And do not lead us into temptation. But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

14. "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15. "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Reflection: On Shrove Tuesday, we prepare ourselves for Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. Prayer is one of the ways to prepare for any spiritual exercise; it is a heart-to-heart talk with God. This is noticeably clear, especially when it is a personal prayer. You make it secret, private, and confidential. In 2 Kings 4:32-35, we can see how Elisha entered into the room and shut the door after himself and the dead boy. He prayed to God and took some actions which could only be done in private with God. Faith is the ingredient you cannot rule out in prayer. Ecclesiastes 5:2 cautions against those of too many repetitive words in prayer. The stress here is on vain repetitions. God do not cherish repetition. Rashness and speaking in haste without thinking could put us in trouble with God (Numbers 14:28).

Praying with right altitude and faith involve first turning away from our sins and being obedient to the Word of God. Matthew 6:9-15 teaches us about "The Lord's Prayer" which is shows a pattern for use during prayer. The Prayer can be said to include the following: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (ACTS). As the disciples of Jesus asked Him to teach them to pray, you can ask Him today to also teach you to improve your prayer life.

PRAYER: Lord, teach me to pray right privately and corporately (during public worship).

Food for Thought: Then Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." (Mark 9:23)

Fr. Asonye+