

July 26

Luke 16:1-13

In these verses, Jesus tells the parable of the shrewd manager.

Question to Consider:

At the end of this passage, Jesus says that it is impossible to serve both God and money. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Prayer:

Father God, I know that there will be something that I live for more than anything else, and I know that you give me the freedom to choose what it is. I pray that as I live each day, I will live for you above all else. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

July 27

Luke 16:19-31

In this passage, Jesus tells the story of a rich man and a beggar named Lazarus.

Question to Consider:

As with many parables, Jesus was teaching two lessons simultaneously. On the surface, the story reminds us of the importance of caring for the poor, and of our basic belief that in the end, God is just. At the same time, Jesus was aiming a message at the Pharisees, reminding them that in rejecting him, they were continuing a tradition of ignoring the prophets who came before him. Jesus often taught in parables. Why do you suppose he did that?

Prayer:

Almighty God, as I spend time with your word, help me to understand the meaning, and when a story has multiple lessons, open my eyes and heart to the lessons I need to learn. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

July 28

Luke 17:11-19

This passage tells the story of Jesus healing ten men with leprosy.

Question to Consider:

Can you think of someone who has done something nice for you in the past month, but who you have forgotten to thank? It's never too late.

Prayer:

Gracious God, you do so much for me and too often I fail to thank you. I thank you, Lord, for the many ways you bless my life. I pray that I grow as a person of gratitude, thanking you and others for the blessings I receive. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

July 29

Luke 17:22-37

In these verses, Jesus teaches his disciples about the day when he returns.

Question to Consider:

The return of Christ is one of the basic affirmations of our faith and Jesus frequently taught that because we do not know when that day will come, we should always be ready. Do you feel ready for Christ's return? Is his return something you look forward to?

Prayer:

Forgiving God, I believe that Jesus will return and I look forward to that day. Until that day comes, I pray that you will help me to be ready. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

July 30

Luke 18:1-8

In this passage, Jesus teaches about the value of persistence.

Question to Consider:

Jesus encourages us to be persistent in our faith and in our prayers. If you pray for something, do you pray with persistence, or do you ask God once and then not again? Has persistence paid off for you?

Prayer:

Father God, I pray to you this day because I know that I can and I know that you listen. I pray that I will grow as a persistent person of prayer. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

July 31

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus continues to teach about prayer in these verses – this time about the proper approach to prayer.

Question to Consider:

Be honest. When you talk to God, do you sound more like the tax collector or the Pharisee?

Prayer:

Loving God, I pray that I always approach you with humility. I thank you for loving me just as I am, weaknesses and all. Guide and strengthen me in your ways. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.