

# Read - Think - Pray

Proper 21A, 26-30 September, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

**Monday**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 25:1-9**

**Think:**

'To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust.' - Psalm 25:1-2a  
Why do you trust in God? How has God earned your trust?

**Pray:**

The Psalmist asks God:  
'Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love...'  
As you lift yourself to God in prayer - and those dear to you; why not use the Psalmist's line as your refrain.

**Tuesday**

**Old Testament**

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

**Think:**

When Jerusalem was conquered in 598BC Ezekiel was probably taken to exile in Babylon; exile was seen as punishment from God for all the evil that had been done in Israel, Judah and Jerusalem.

As Ezekiel prophesies a 'new order' he looks forward to the day when each will be responsible for their own sin.

The key phrase is: 'Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin!' - Ezekiel 18:30

**Pray:**

We don't like to think about our 'sin' we prefer to think of ourselves as angels; but we're not. What paths are we walking along that will only lead to ruin?

Ask God for help in finding new paths and turning back on the wrong paths.

**Wednesday**

**Epistle**

**Philippians 2:1-13**

**Think:**

Speaking of 'repenting' 'turning away from sin' we turn towards Christlikeness; 'Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.' - Php 2:5

This is not impossible because as Paul says:

'...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.' (Php 2:13)

**Pray:**

'Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.'

Pray for those who you know are struggling at this time.

**Thursday**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 21:23-32**

**Think:**

Jesus' inclusion of tax collectors and prostitutes scandalised people. In Matthew 21 the chief priests ask Jesus what he is up to? Jesus takes them to John's baptism, an opportunity for a new beginning. Then his parable about a son who chose to be obedient after first being disobedient.

An opportunity to repent.

We say a lot and do a little.

**Pray:**

Pray that our words and actions would meet.

**Friday**

**Next week's gospel**

**Matthew 21:33-46**

**Think:**

Jesus concludes his parable with verse 43: 'Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom...'

Producing the fruits of the kingdom is difficult - but with God's help - anything is possible.

**Pray:**

Pray that today in your work, in your relationships, in your friendships - you would have the courage to produce the fruit of the kingdom.

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