

# Prayer and Study Guide

Daily Scripture Readings – 2/10/19

**Monday** – Read Mark 10:13-22. **What must I do to inherit eternal life?** Jesus said, <sup>15</sup> “Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And then a rich man asks Jesus, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He had achieved so much in his life. He was rich. He was devout. He was successful. What do you get the person who has everything? This man wanted to know how he could acquire eternal life. Jesus said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” The man loved money more than the invitation to follow Jesus. This is the only story in Mark’s Gospel in which the person Jesus called to follow him responded by walking away, and this man walked away because he was rich. Consider your relationship with God and your relationship with money. Ask Jesus to be your Lord so that you may use all that you have to serve Jesus.

**Tuesday** – Read Mark 10:23-27. **For God all things are possible.** Jesus says to us, to the church, “Man, it is really hard to get one of these rich ones into my Kingdom.” Around the ninth century, some creative preacher claimed that there was a gate in Jerusalem named “The Needle’s Eye” so that Jesus was talking about how difficult it was to get a fully loaded camel through this relatively narrow gate. No, that is an invention of a preacher back in the ninth century who probably had to preach this text to a congregation like ours. The disciples spoke for us all, “Then who can be saved?” And Jesus replies, “It’s hard. It’s hard. It’s impossible for rich people to enter the Kingdom. In fact, it is impossible for anyone to enter this Kingdom, but with God, all things are possible, even this.” You cannot save your self. Salvation is a free gift from God. As you pray, thank God for God’s grace.

**Wednesday** – Read Mark 10:28-31. **The First Will Be Last and the Last Will Be First.** Speaking for the disciples, Peter says that they have fulfilled what Jesus asked of the rich man.

“Look, we have left everything and followed you.” They left behind their families, their jobs, and their homes to follow Jesus, and Jesus says that those who have made sacrifices for the sake of the good news will be blessed and rewarded in this life and with the gift of eternal life. What sacrifices are you making for the sake of the good news? Will you go where Jesus leads you? Will you do what Jesus is calling you to do? Jesus also says, <sup>31</sup> *But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.* There will be a great reversal in God’s Kingdom. As you pray, ask Jesus to help you follow where he leads and do what he calls you to do.

**Thursday** – Read Mark 10:32-34. **Following Jesus to the cross.** Jesus knows where he is going, and he knows what will happen to him when he gets there; but he walks determinedly ahead. Jesus does not go easily to his death, but neither does he face death with amazement, alarm, or uncertainty. His goal is passion, not pilgrimage. He will be hailed as a king of the Jews, but his enthronement will be paradoxical. His coronation will mean his death. However, his journey would not end in death but rather resurrection. The disciples were amazed and afraid, but still they followed Jesus. As we sang on Sunday, let your prayer be: *Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out. Bring me to my knees. Lord, I lay me down. Rid me of myself; I belong to You. Lead me. Lead me to the cross.*

**Friday** – Read Mark 10:35-40. **Are Ye Able?** After hearing Jesus predict his death, James and John jockeyed for power and prestige. Like children, they tried to manipulate Jesus for their own advantage. James and John misunderstand their own calling and destiny, and they misunderstood Jesus’ reply to them. “Are ye able,” said the Master, to be crucified with me?” “Yea,” the sturdy dreamers answered, “to the death we follow thee.” James and John would drink the cup of suffering which Jesus drank. James would be executed, and John would be exiled. Are you willing to suffer with Jesus in order to follow and serve Jesus? Let your prayer be: *Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine. Remold them, make us, like thee, divine. Thy guiding radiance above us shall be a beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.*

**Saturday** – Read Mark 10:41-45. **Jesus came to save you.** When you come to church, do you come to serve or to be served? The other ten disciples were angry when they heard that James and John had asked Jesus for positions of power and prestige because secretly they all wanted those positions for themselves. But Jesus said, “Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.” Jesus modeled this king of servant leadership even to the point of death on a cross. Jesus said, <sup>45</sup> *For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.* Jesus came to save you. As a song states: *He paid a debt he did not owe. I owed a debt I could not pay. I needed someone to wash my sin away. And now I sing a brand new song: Amazing Grace all day long. Christ Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay.* As you pray, thank Jesus for giving his life to pay the debt of our sin and offer us forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.

**Lectionary Readings:** Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11.

**Find this Prayer and Study Guide at [www.nicholshillsumc.org](http://www.nicholshillsumc.org).**