

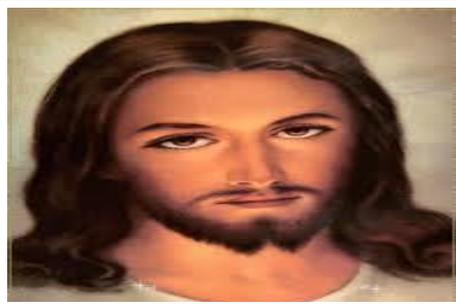


Title: Leadership

Scripture

Luke 7:11-17

A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him, and Jesus went to his house and sat down to eat. In that town was a woman who lived a sinful life. She heard that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's house, so she brought an alabaster jar full of perfume and stood behind Jesus, by his feet, crying and wetting his feet with her tears. Then she dried his feet with her hair, kissed them, and poured the perfume on them. When the Pharisee saw this, he said to himself, "If this man really were a prophet, he would know who this woman is who is touching him; he would know what kind of sinful life she lives!" Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Yes, Teacher", he said, "tell me." "There were two men who owed money to a moneylender", Jesus began. "One owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other owed him fifty. Neither of them could pay him back, so he cancelled the debts of both. Which one, then, will love him more?" "I suppose", answered Simon, "that it would be the one who was forgiven more." "You are right," said Jesus. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your home, and you gave me no water for my feet, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You did not welcome me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since I came. You provided no olive oil for my head, but she has covered my feet with perfume. I tell you, then, the great love she has shown proves that her many sins have been forgiven. But whoever has been forgiven little shows only a little love." Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven. The others sitting at the table began to say to themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" But Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."



Pray for:

- Those who are oppressed or live in fear because they are 'different'.
- Those who work to promote peace, tolerance and understanding.
- Members of our community preparing for and taking exams this week.

Prayer to St Julie Billiart

Saint Julie, through your great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, you were miraculously cured and favoured by many graces.

By your powerful intercession, obtain for us above all, a great trust in God in all the difficulties of life, the strength to accomplish in all things the adorable will of God, and the special grace we now ardently ask of you.

"We must have courage in the times we live in. Great souls are needed, souls having the interest of God at heart"

St Julie Billiart

Reflect:

Jesus is a usual figure of leadership because his way of ruling is quite a contrast to other ways we know – his power is based on love, humility and service, Christ's kingdom is one of justice and judgment balanced with love, mercy, peace, and forgiveness. When we celebrate Christ as King, we are not celebrating an oppressive ruler, but one willing to die for humanity and whose loving kindness endures forever.

As a king Christ is powerful. What can we learn from how He shows power?

What power do you have?

How do you USE and ABUSE that power?

Prayer in action this week:

- Treat others with dignity and respect.
- Accept others for who they are.
- Stop yourself from judging others.
- Don't exclude people from your friendships.
- Be patient with people.

Leadership is hard to define.

Lord, let us be the ones to define it with justice.

Leadership is like a handful of water.

Lord, let us be the people to share it with those who thirst.

Leadership is not about watching and correcting.

Lord, let us remember it is about listening and connecting.

Leadership is not about telling people what to do.

Lord, let us find out what people want.

Leadership is less about the love of power and more about the power of love.

Lord, as we continue to undertake the role of leader let us be affirmed by the servant leadership we witness in your son Jesus. Let us walk in the path He has set and let those who will, follow.

Let our greatest passion be compassion.

Our greatest strength love.

Our greatest victory the reward of peace.

In leading let us never fail to follow.

In loving let us never fail.

Amen

Dear God,

I stop and think of those who are leaders in my life...

in my home...

in my work....

in my country....

in the world....

Perhaps there is someone I find it hard to think of with love.

I hand over to you any anger or fear I feel.

In this moment, I send them love.

However I feel about them, in this moment, I see your love flowing through me to them.

Dear God, I ask you to feed these people on your wisdom and your understanding, for their good and for the good of all they serve.

Let them recognise and take the authority that is theirs to take.

Thank you God for guiding them every step of the way.

Amen

Lord, as we discern the meaning of our call to servant leadership, help us recognize the ways you seek to minister through our lives. Inspired by the knowledge of your abiding presence, may we have the courage to reach out and support one another, to stand firm in what is true, to decrease when others should increase, and to lead with vision and compassion, as faithful followers of Jesus, your Son. We make this prayer to you in his name. Amen.



Dear God,

Thank you for those who provide good leadership in my life.

Help me to recognise and accept the wisdom they offer me.

Guide them wisely.

Amen.

Lord, we look to you as King and ask that you rule our heads and our hearts to ensure that we always act as you would have us act.

Be our strength and our comfort, our guide and our might.

We ask this in your name, Amen