

The prayer of the just remains until the Most High responds!

Sirach 35:12-14,16-18

Psalms 34:2-3,17-19,23

2Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Luke 18:9-14

In the first reading Sirach tells us that if we serve God willingly our prayers will be heard and our petitions will reach the heavens. Our God is the God of justice who knows no favorites and hears the cry of the oppressed whose prayers pierce the clouds.

The psalmist will always bless and glorify the Lord and be joined by the lowly in these actions. The brokenhearted are saved, the faithful servants are redeemed and will not incur guilt, but the evildoers are to be confronted and their remembrance on earth will eventually be destroyed.

In the second reading Paul reminds Timothy that he has kept the faith and will continue to do so until the end. There was a time, Paul continues, when all abandoned him, and the Lord strengthened him in order to preach the Gospel, which saved him from all harm, and will continue to do so until he is safe in the heavenly kingdom.



In the Gospel Jesus tells the parable describing the difference in how a proud man and a humble man prayed. Both opened their prayer with, "O God,...." but one acknowledged his sinfulness while the other his righteousness. The proud man raised his eyes to heaven and extolled his own actions, while the other bowed his head and beat his breast in repentance. Only the humble man was justified before God.

**The Father hears the brokenhearted,
The Son strengthens them,
The Holy Spirit renews their hope.**

The Wisdom of Sirach emphasizes that prayers of the lowly continue to be active until heard by the Lord and answered justly. The psalmist's prayer blesses and praises the Lord because the Lord's response is redemption. Paul's prayer gave him strength to overcome all the obstacles he encountered in preaching the Gospel. Jesus reminds us in the parable to be genuine in prayer and phony righteousness is immediately recognized.

Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.

Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.

Only for today, I will devote ten minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.

Only for today, I will do a good deed and not tell anyone about it.

Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.

Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.

(Blessed John XXIII)