

Formed in Prayer

Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us.

Dear Father, be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire
and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Gospel

Matthew 23:1-12

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, ‘The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

‘You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.’

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday’s Gospel reading?
What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

Jeff Hyman, in Forbes, points out that a number of research studies have concluded that humble leaders listen more effectively, inspire great teamwork and focus everyone, including themselves, on organisational goals better than leaders who don’t score high on humility. He suspects that humility gets a bad rap because it is sometimes linked with subservience or weakness or introversion. However, he points out, ‘Psychological research actually indicates the opposite. Humility is most closely associated with a cluster of highly positive qualities including sincerity, modesty, fairness, truthfulness, unpretentiousness and authenticity.’

Professor Br David Hall, Dean of the ACU La Salle Academy, in *Essentials for Faith Leadership* describes humility as the ‘X Factor’ in leadership. Christian leaders, he suggests, take their inspiration as disciples from Mary, the model disciple. ‘Mary knew that she needed God, so humility is to recognise I need God. Indeed it means I cooperate with God because I can do nothing without God.’ With this recognition of our dependence comes the necessity of prayer woven through each day and week as a conversation with God, attentive to the teachings of the Gospel and the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our interactions with others. (*Greg Wilson CSYMI Manager*)

Prayer

Have mercy on me, gracious Father, have mercy.
As the day unfolds, grant me humility, kindness, and courage.
Bring glory to yourself, gentleness to my heart, and a good gospel outcome.
Amen I pray, in Jesus’ wonderful and merciful name.