

March 17, 2010

Scripture Reading: James 5:9-20

"Give us each day our daily bread." (Luke 11:3)

In teaching his disciples how to pray, Jesus doesn't say, "give **me** each day **my** daily bread." He says, "give **us** this day **our** daily bread." The Lord's Prayer is a personal prayer to God who is the heavenly Father, but it is also a corporate prayer prayed by the community of disciples who ask God to give **us** what **we** need, to forgive **us** our sins, to deliver **us** from temptation.

Jesus instructs us to pray with and for each other.

James also reminds us that we are to pray for one another in times of need. It may seem like we aren't doing very much when we pray, or that praying is an escape from the real world of actually helping someone in need. But James tells us: "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." Today, as you pray, be sure to include the needs and concerns of others. Pray for:

people who are sick, injured, or physically hurting;
people who are suffering emotional and spiritual wounds;
people who are separated from God;
people who are filled with anger and hatred;
people who are hungry;
people who are struggling financially;
people who carry burdens of broken families;
people who are lonely and afraid.

Finally, pray for people who have not experienced the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ.