

Bread is okay. You're could cut out some of the desserts and junk food.

Hey, wait a minute! What is this? Here I am doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my faults and bad habits.

Praying can be a dangerous thing. It can change your life. You just might get what you ask for. Remember, you called me – and here I am. It's too late to stop now, so keep praying.

...pause...

Well, go on.

Ummmm, I'm scared to.

Scared? Of what?

I know what you'll say next.

Try me.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

What about Linda?

See! I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! Why should I forgive her, God? She's told lies about me, and spread stories. I want to get even with her not forgive her!

But – your prayer – what about your prayer and forgiveness?

I didn't – ummmm, mean it.

Well, at least you're honest. But, it's quite a load carrying around all that bitterness and resentment, isn't it?

Yes, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even with her.
Boy, have I got some plans for her.
She'll wish she had never been born!

No, you won't feel any better. In fact, you'll feel worse. You know how unhappy you've been. Well, I can change that.

You can? How?

Forgive Linda. Then, I'll forgive you; and the hate and sin will be Linda's problem – not yours. You will have settled the problem as far as you are concerned.

You know, you're right. You always are and I want to be right with you. Oh okay ... All right ... I forgive her. I forgive Linda.

There now! How do you feel?

Hmmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all! I feel pretty good! In fact, I don't think I'll be all up-tight tonight when I go to bed. I haven't been getting much rest, you know.

Yes, I know. But, you're not through with your prayer yet, are you? Go on.

Oh, all right. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Good! Good! I'll do that! Just don't put yourself in a situation where you can be easily tempted.

What do you mean by that?

You know what I mean.

Oh! Yeah. I know...

Okay. Go ahead. Finish your prayer.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Do you know what would bring me glory? What would really make me happy?

No lord, but I'd like to know. I really do want to please you. I've made a mess of things and I need your help. I want to truly trust and follow you. I understand now how great that would be. So, tell me... How do I make you happy?

You just did.

GOSPEL READING

...Heather

Luke 11:1-4 Contemporary English Version

¹When Jesus had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his followers to pray."

²So Jesus told them, “Pray in this way: ‘Father, help us to honor your name. Come and set up your kingdom. ³Give us each day the food we need. ⁴Forgive our sins, as we forgive everyone who has done wrong to us. And keep us from being tempted.’”

REFLECTION **The Lord’s Prayer** ...Heather

Take the next few minutes to respond to the questions offered.

HYMN **VU#959 The Lord’s Prayer** ...Band

Our Father, who art in heaven,

What name for the Holy One touches my heart? Father, Mother, Creator, Holy Mystery, Wholly Love...

hallowed be thy name,

How do I honour the name of God in my life, my church, God’s world?

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

What does God’s kingdom look like when it breaks in to my life?

Give us this day our daily bread,

What do I need most from God today?

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Where do I need God’s forgiveness and grace?

Who might God be asking me to forgive?

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

What am I tempted to hold on to that might hurt me or the people around me?