

International Bible Lesson
Praying Through Matthew 25:31-46
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Lord Jesus, thank You for promising to return in glory with all the angels so the entire world can see You sitting on and reigning from Your glorious throne as King of kings and Lord of lords; then, all knees will bow down before You. Lord Jesus, we bow down before You as Your faithful friends and servants; so today, we keep praying fervently, “Come, Lord Jesus!” We will continue to pray for the coming of that glorious day when everyone on earth will see You coming in clouds with great power and glory. We seek to praise You and glorify Your Name daily with our words and deeds as small as they may be from this world’s perspective. We pray that as we read the Bible that we will learn more about You and Your will for us. We pray that Your Spirit would help us be good sheep in Your pasture and that by following You moment-by-moment we will not stray away from You and into this world’s wicked ways. Please come save us if we do! Help us see You in the lives of others in need; especially those who are Your sheep and those who are becoming Your sheep that we might be used of You to encourage them and help meet their real needs.

Lord Jesus, many of Your children suffer as the goats afflict them, persecute them, and even ignore them during times of deepest trouble. Though neither You nor we desire that any should perish and that all would come to saving faith in You, we know from the Scriptures that there will always be sheep and goats. We give thanks that someday You will separate the sheep from the goats so Your children can have peace with You and others in Your

kingdom. Until then, please help us be the light and salt of the world so more might come to know You as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please Note: I first learned about “Praying Through the Bible” from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own “Prayer Through the Bible” using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [How God Teaches Us to Pray](#): Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.