

Praying Through Luke 16:19-31

International Bible Lesson

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

O God, please restrain us from becoming like the rich man in Jesus' parable, who was so selfish and self-absorbed that he loved money and the pleasures money could buy more than anyone or anything else in the world. Please open our eyes to the neighbors around us who may be in real need, and whose needs we could meet with the resources You have given us. We do not need to be rich in material blessings to be able to help some by sharing the time and talent You have given us; please show us the way. And please reveal to us where we can share with close neighbors and neighbors around the world, especially when the nearby needs of our neighbors are not apparent or revealed to us.

O God, we praise You and give thanks for the writings of Moses and the prophets, for the words of Jesus, and the writings of the apostles that teach us about You, Your saving grace, and the meaning of true faith in You—a faith that leads to action in behalf of others. Time and time again You have shown us Your love that continually draws us toward You. Indeed, we love You because You first loved us. Please help us to love our neighbors and do for them what we would want them to do for us.

Lord Jesus, we do believe that You rose from the dead, which not only confirmed Your words and way of life, but also enabled our redemption. Please show us the people we can talk to and teach so they will have the opportunity to hear the good news about You, come to believe in You, and receive the blessings of eternal salvation. In Your Name, we pray. 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.