

Praying Through Matthew 13:24-33
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You this day for sending Jesus into our world to teach in parables; thus, fulfilling Your prophetical word in the Old Testament. We thank You for the interpretation of the parables that Jesus gave to His disciples for them to pass on to others, including us. We also thank You for the Holy Spirit who dwells within us to help us understand Jesus' parables and who also shows us how Jesus' words teach us spiritual lessons that apply to our lives even today. We pray that the truth of the whole Bible will help us rightly understand the true meaning and application of Jesus' parables within the Church, the world, and us.

Lord Jesus, we do not understand our spiritual and moral enemies as we ought. Thank You for showing us that in this world, even though we have the honor and privilege of dwelling within the kingdom of heaven on earth, that we have enemies who would seek to drive us away from You and the true application of Your words. Help us to recognize them and their errors, so we can avoid falling prey to them. Whenever they seem the most sincere and convincing, protect us from falling for their lies and help us stand with courage and conviction whenever Your enemies are lying about You or us.

Lord Jesus, we praise You for the many faithful Christians who have rightly interpreted Your word in the face of many enemies. Help us stand and teach rightly as

they did, so many might come into and persevere in the kingdom of heaven through faith in You. 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.