

**Saturday, July 17, 2021** (by Lisa Trigg)

Luke 18: 35-43

<https://tinyurl.com/3v644ut3>



**GOBIN CHURCH**  
A United Methodist Community for All

**PONDER:** Father Michel de Verteuil of Trinidad says of this episode Luke: “Lord, there are many people sitting at the side of the road, shouting to us to have pity on them, but they often shout in strange ways: by behaving badly; by taking drugs and alcohol; by sulking, remaining silent or locked up in their rooms; sometimes by insisting that they are happy to be at the side of the road while others pass by. Like Jesus, we need to stop all that we are doing so that we can hear them express their deep longing to have their sight restored to them.” The poor, or the disabled, or people not like “us” can be a nuisance because they disturb our comfortable lives. Talk with Jesus about your attitude about the needy. Notice that Jesus reverses human values and puts this blind beggar first. Ask God for grace to do the same.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, help me to see that by taking time to help someone, I can help you restore something in them that is missing. Cause me to pause when I see others needing help. Amen.

**ACTION:** Put someone or some people first today. Perhaps by donating to a homeless shelter, or giving gently used clothing or children’s toys to an agency that can share them with the needy.

## **DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS** **July 12-17, 2021**

**Monday, July 12, 2021** (by Marilyn Culler)

Acts 21:27-39

<https://tinyurl.com/4y8dnmd7>

**PONDER:** Reading this passage about Paul in the temple, it’s easy to see how quickly a crowd can turn against someone. It’s easy to see how simple it is for the authorities to arrest someone before their actions are investigated. Paul wasn’t arrested for his safety; he was arrested because the authorities believed the crowds. Crowds believed Hitler and a few others in power, and around six million Jewish people were murdered. When those in power do not hold themselves to high ethical and moral standards, divisiveness takes hold. Jesus and his followers were persecuted, beaten, even killed. God hears the cries of the faithful. Those who cause harm to others in any way will be brought low.

**PRAYER:** God of all people, thank you for Jesus and his followers. Thank you for being with them in their suffering so that your message of love could come to all people through the ages. Comfort all who suffer needlessly. Grant us your peace. Amen.

**ACTION:** Pray for people who are wrongly persecuted, falsely accused, victims of injustices and the authorities who wield power without honor.

**Tuesday, July 13, 2021** (by Jeremiah Hagler)

Psalms 142

<https://tinyurl.com/9jb7ttb9>

**PONDER:** “I cry out loud for help from the Lord” How often have we been there? I know for me I have felt like I was in David’s spot so many times. Obviously, I wasn’t being hunted, but our society wires us to think that whatever is happening in our little sphere is the biggest issue of all time. Like David we often cry out to the Lord for help, but how often do we truly follow it with “Get me out of this prison so I can give thanks to your name”? We are quick to ask for help but we are also far too quick to dismiss where the help came from. We often view this relationship as a one-way street rather than a conversation with our creator. We call out for help, receive and answer we may or may not desire, and are all too quick to move on.

May we be more like David in these scenarios, humbling ourselves and being quick to point the glory to where it belongs!

**PRAYER:** LORD! How often have you been there for me in my time of need, and I have been oh so quick to move along until the next “crisis” arises? Humble me Lord, so that I may remind myself and others where my blessings come from!

**ACTION:** Take time today to say thank you to those around you that help you! It is in this small way that we thank God for placing those in our paths, just when we need them!

**Wednesday, July 14, 2021** (by Anita Edenfield)

Psalm 142

**PONDER:** Currently our Bible study group is reading the Book of Psalms and I am learning that David was a man of many faces. While he was best known for being King of Israel, David was also a mix of good boy/bad boy, a musician, a writer, and a warrior. Reading Psalms is showing me that above everything else that he was, David was a man of deep faith. In Psalm 142 David is in one of his most desperate moments. Yet, ultimately, as he does in all things, David puts his trust in God! Let us Be. Like. David... put your trust in God!

**PRAYER:** “Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful Face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.” Amen

**ACTION:** When you are full of doubt and feeling lost and alone, look up to the heavens. Breathe slowly and calm yourself. Trust is deep inside your core. Let God be the battery that recharges it.

**Thursday, July 15, 2021** (by Teddy Shuck)

Psalm 89:20-37

<https://tinyurl.com/y39sbsbz>

**PONDER:** This Royal Psalm focuses on the current King of Israel, not God. Part of it is God’s covenant with the house of David. God is loving and true as he finds David. He will watch over and care for the man who becomes King. family and heirs.

Robert Alter’s “Book of Psalms” indicates it is apparently written about the time fortunes for the Davidic King have taken a disastrous turn. Some scholars think this was written at the time of First Commonwealth. Versus 20-37 focus on the covenant. The verses also list the ways that the covenant can be broken by his family and heirs. They may violate the covenant but God indicates he will never forget David. However the psalmist begins to ask lots of questions. He asks why does it feel that God is no longer present. Do you ever feel that way?

**PRAYER:** Lord especially when it seems to me that you are absent, give me the grace to trust you. Amen.

**ACTION:** Remember all the times when God has not forgotten you! If you journal, write them down for you to reread from time to time. Then include them in your prayers and thank him again.

**Friday, July 16, 2021** (by Terry Noble)

Acts 17:16-31

<https://tinyurl.com/n2dvnetr>

**PONDER:** In this reading from Acts Paul is in Athens, a city full of temples and shrines to many gods. Paul notes that the people of Athens like to spend their time talking about all the newest ideas. Yet, in spite of the outward trappings of religion and their intellectual engagement, Paul recognizes that what they have is superficial religion. The story of Jesus life and resurrection speaks of deep connection and love. Paul invites the Athenians into a relationship with the living God, not a god of stone or silver or gold. Through Christ everyone is a beloved member of the family of God. Imagine how strange – and how amazing – that must have sounded to people accustomed to worshipping gods who did not invite them into relationship. While we do not have shrines to a plethora of gods and goddesses, there are many things in our modern world that divert us from going deeper in loving God and each other. May Paul’s message to the people of Athens make us more aware of what we may be worshipping instead of the living God.

**PRAYER:** Holy God, keep my eyes on you. Amen.

**ACTION:** Take a moment to look at your life. Is there anything you value more than your relationship with God?

