

Lectio Divina

November 5th 2023 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A – Matthew 23:1 - 12

²³⁻¹Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²'The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; ³therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they teach. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. ⁶They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. ⁹And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. ¹⁰Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

<p>➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</p> <p>➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</p>	<p>➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</p> <p>➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</p>
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In today's gospel we see the Pharisees laying down endless rules for the people. We see them emphasise their robes for prayer, not for the reason they were made, which was to have the Word of God close to them because it was strapped on. But they were using these things to mark them out as very important. A purpose they were not created for. They put heavy loads on people while not lifting a finger to help them. They liked to make themselves look important in order to attract attention.

Are there times in your life when you do not live up to the expectations you put on others.

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for all the people who set up places to help those less fortunate than themselves. They are a sign to us that we are not only called to obey Your laws but to help others to bear their burdens.

Lord forgive us for the times we felt important and in control because of our positions of authority rather than remembering our first duty is to be at the service of others in a humble way.

Help us Lord as followers of Jesus to be servants of the oppressed, helping them to realise they are very special and equal in the eyes of Jesus.

