

BIBLE READINGS - October 1, 2023
Revised Standard Version

Psalm 25:1-9

Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance

A Psalm of David.

25 To thee, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in thee I trust,

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

³ Yea, let none that wait for thee be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know thy ways, O LORD;

teach me thy paths.

⁵ Lead me in thy truth, and teach me,

for thou art the God of my salvation;

for thee I wait all the day long.

⁶ Be mindful of thy mercy, O LORD, and of thy steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions;

according to thy steadfast love remember me,

for thy goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

Matthew 21:23-32

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²³ And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"

²⁴ Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you a question; and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, whence was it? From heaven or from men?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'From men,' we are afraid of the multitude; for all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know."

And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he repented and went.

³⁰ And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?"

They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.