

Seven Ways to Pray for Your Leaders—Part 1 (David Mathis)

Tale of Two Wisdoms

James 3:13-18 draws a clear contrast between two kinds of wisdom: earthly wisdom and “the wisdom that comes down from above” (James 3:15). There is a kind of wisdom, exercised by humans, of human origin, and there is another kind—the true wisdom, exercised by humans, but of divine origin. One is heavenly, spiritual, and godly. The other, “earthly, unspiritual, demonic” (James 3:15).

Fortunately, our Father is an exceedingly generous giver, and He loves to respond with favour when we humbly petition Him for wisdom (James 1:5). It is good to pray often for wisdom for yourself—and it is one of the most important things you can pray for your leaders.

Consider James 3:17 as a guide for praying for what our leaders would be.

The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

1. Pure

First, pray for your leaders' purity. Sexual purity, yes, especially in our highly sexualized society, but “pure” here is so much more than simply that.

Pray that their counsel would be pure and not lead others into sin, and that they would be wise in deciding whom to empower to represent the church as fellow leaders (1 Timothy 5:22). Pray that they would lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and be free to run with endurance the race that is set before them (Hebrews 12:1). Pray that they would be pure in their conduct, blameless, meaning “above reproach” (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7). Pray that their motives would be pure, not mixed (2 Corinthians 7:11). Pray that their minds would be pure, not distracted (Philippians 4:8). Pray that the words of their teaching would be pure, not deceptive (2 Corinthians 2:17). “We who teach will be judged with greater strictness” (James 3:1).

2. Peace-Loving

Pray that your leaders would love peace. Leaders in the church should not be quarrelsome (1 Timothy 3:3), and they should not be indifferent to peace (peace-neutral), but rather peacemakers (literally, “peace-loving”).

Pastors should not be “pugnacious” (the old language for it), quick to argue and pick a fight. Rather, they should be the kind of men who “have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels” (2 Timothy 2:23; see also 1 Timothy 4:7), and who are willing to go the extra mile to keep others from getting swamped in silly arguments.

This means that it is essential for church leaders to correct others. Being genuinely peace-loving means loving peace enough to move toward conflict and controversy for the sake of seeing peace come from it. Pastors who are truly peace-loving don't avoid conflict, and don't enjoy picking a fight, but are eager to engage with disagreement for the sake of bringing about the peace of agreement in the truth.

Pray that your pastors would “hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it” (Titus 1:9). And such rebuke is not fight-picking, but peace-making, purging the church from gospel distortions, and ushering in the peace that we enjoy when we share in the truth. “A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (James 3:18).



26 May 2019 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: Gospel of Mark—The King Opposed

God's leaders are warned that their failures to accept the authority and Kingship of the Son will lead to their judgement and destruction. But there is hope for those who wholeheartedly love God.



Next Sunday: Mark 13:1-37

Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	Beautiful Saviour Rock of Ages There is a Higher Throne
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	Mark 11:27-12:44
Sermon	By Pastor Steven Tran
Song of Response	Jesus, There is No One Like You

Stay Connected

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$5,780.98
Weekly Required	\$5,774.00
Shortfall 2019	\$811.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE OUR LORD JESUS FOR coming as the long-awaited Saviour and King who humbles Himself to serve, even to the point of death on a cross.

PRAY THAT WE AND THE PEOPLE WE try to explain the gospel to would understand why Jesus had to be destroyed in our place. Pray that we would understand and know how to explain the utter brokenness of our sinful nature in all of us and the judgement we deserve (the bad news), and then to know the joy of preaching the death and resurrection of Christ as our only hope of salvation (the good news!)

PRAY FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED government of Australia, led by Prime Minister Scott Morrison. Pray that they would lead and serve with wisdom and justice, integrity and goodness, seeking what is right a for the benefit of many, not what is popular and self-serving. Pray that we would always and ultimately place our trust in the Lord as the sovereign and eternal leader, so that no matter what our earthly leaders are like, we would find security and significance in our heavenly King.

PRAY FOR THOSE SUFFERING IN MANY and various ways—acute or chronic pain, illness, emotional and psychological health problems and relational breakdowns. Pray in line with James 1:2-5.

Community News

Serving

	Today	Next Sunday
Chair	Ps Ben	Ps Steven
Prayer	Ps Ben	Dan
Preach	Ps Steven	Ps Ben
Bible Read	Jansen <i>Alan</i>	Alice <i>Ps Steven</i>
M.Tea	Daniel, Elleen	Linda, Winnie
Wash Up	SOS West	SaLT
Welcome	Meng Yin Dan Amy <i>James</i> <i>Jabez</i> <i>Sarah</i> <i>Mildred</i>	Philip Mee Lan Esther <i>Andrew</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Marilyn</i> <i>Joy</i>
Stewards	Jeffrey Graham Alvin <i>Alan</i> <i>Stanley</i> <i>Helen</i>	Richard Norman Sunny <i>Cam</i> <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>Edwina</i>
Piano	Liesl	Joanna
Guitar	Shao Peng	Shao Peng/ Mark
Bass	Aaron	Ethan
Drums	Nigel	John
Vocal	Hui Ming/ Joachim	Alisha
PA	Reuten <i>Daniel</i>	William <i>Jowin</i>

13. The Gospel of Mark–The King Opposed [Mark 11:27-12:44]

Intro:

Sandwich #1

1. The Vineyard parable (12:1-12)

2. Three tests

a. Round 1: authority (11:27-33)

b. Round 2: allegiance (12:13-17)

c. Round 3: afterlife (12:18-27)

Sandwich #2

1. The ill-hearted (12:35-40)

a. Theological blindness

b. Hypocritical leaders

2. The whole-hearted

a. An honest question (12:28-34)

b. An honest offering (12:41-44)

So what?