

# Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...  
when Jesus...  
was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

## Ordinary Time – Twenty-third Sunday - Yr A

**We Gather:** In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. Green is the appropriate liturgical colour. On the prayer table have two flat plates...one piled high with dark coloured pebbles- the other, with shiny glass stones or flower petals.

**Leader:** Come, ring out our joy to God

**All:** Hail the rock who saves us

**We Listen:** The Gospel Matthew 18; 15-20

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

**"Whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven..."**

**So, it would be just as well for us not to be people who bind others into poverty, darkness, isolation. On the contrary, we are urged to loose ourselves and others from the restraints of mind and soul and body that exploit and degrade them. Whilst we may have thought that this scripture passage refers to the power of the Rite of Penance, we cannot avoid its wider implications. It is us as members of the community who have to bring community reconciliation and healing. It informs us that we are to be people who step forward as active in the process of forgiveness and making new again, agents of peace-making, promoters of justice and reconciliation. Jesus expects us to be like this...in our family, our block of units, our staff room, at the voting booth, on social media, in our prayers.**

**We Respond:** "what you loose on earth..."

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing. Consider the dark stones and the flower petals. What do you bring to community?

- How have I brought relief to students, to colleagues, bound by fear or isolation?
- Do I pray in true love for those who are perpetrators of injustice and violence?

**Song:** Where there is Charity and Love (R Connolly-GA) The Lord is Kind and Merciful (Psalm 103-any version)

**We Go Forth:**

God your name is faithful-love and womb-compassion. You tell us to look on all humans with hope and the firm belief that they are made in your divine image. May we have hearts of humility and tenderness to those who seem caught up in evil and hate. May we have strength to enter into conversations with them that reflect your love and the demands of righteous peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Leader:** Today, let us listen to God's voice

**All:** Let us be led by the hand of the God who made us