

## Praying and talking (w/c 28 October 2018)

*"Prayer is not about changing God, but being willing to let God change us."* (Richard Rohr)

Prayer can be described in many different ways. Share how you see and experience each or any of these aspects of prayer:

- Talking, listening, meditating...
- Verbally, visually, liturgically...
- Expecting God to act; being prepared to act or change ourselves
- Alone, together

How far do different types of people need to pray in different ways?

### Read Colossians 4:2–6

In the light of your discussion on wisdom last week, what do think Paul is thinking of when he tells the Colossians to be wise in the way they act?

Peter expects that we must be *"...prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.* (1 Peter 3:15). Taking this with verse 6, what is there in your life that would prompt others to ask such a question?

Paul knew that his calling was to take the good news to the gentile world (see, for example, Ephesians 3:8). Verses 3 and 4 here embody his frustration at not being able to do so. How do we become aware of our own calling - one admittedly, likely to be far more modest than Paul's - and ensure that we follow it with the dedication he shows?

### Read Matthew 5:13–16

Today, we are used to pure salt; in first century Palestine it was often impure and could easily have the sodium chloride washed out – it could lose its saltiness.

Salt works by permeating everywhere – what have been the failings of the church in this respect in the last few decades? How can we correct this?

What are the differences between being salt and being light? Why is vital that the church is both? Note that 'you' in the Greek original is plural..

Light on a hill; light in a room; light on others... How do they differ; how are they the same?

Jesus expects us to do *"good deeds"*. How far have we got in achieving that? He also expects that others will see those deeds; can Christians be too reticent? How do Jesus' words here sit with Matthew 6:3–4 or with Peter's expectation (as we discussed above) that the hope we have is clear to others?

*"Praying can be woven into everyday life. Prayer is not just something done in church. It is about praying with others, praying alone, at any time and any place. It is living life in a relationship with God."* (Justpray website: 15-Oct-2018)