

**Love in Action (Romans 12:9-21)**

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Inmate's Morning Prayer (#2) (From "Pray in Spirit", Catholic Prayers for Inmates)**

Dear Lord,

As I awake this morning, my thoughts turn toward you. I pray this day be filled with thoughts of you. Endow me with your wisdom throughout the many tasks I endure this day. Keep me caring and thoughtful of others, mindful of what I say. Keep me mindful of you, O Lord, from day to day.

Amen

**Inmate's Prayer of Trankfulness (From "Pray in Spirit", Catholic Prayers for Inmates)**

I'm thankful for the hard mattress I sleep on;  
*Some only have the hard ground.*

I'm thankful for the cell I sleep in – warm, dry, and safe;  
*Some have no heat, no shelter, and no security.*

I'm thankful for the food I receive, not like Mom's, but it's our Father's and provided to me;  
*Some have to beg, scrounge, or even go without.*

I'm thankful for the friends, family, volunteers, and the ministries who give so much to help me stay close to family and God;

*Some are persecuted, imprisoned, and even killed trying to learn and speak His word.*

It may not look like paradise, but it's His way, His plan for me, and He has blessed me with the gift of knowledge, friends, and His love;  
*For all this I am thankful.*

### **Love for Enemies (Matthew 5:43-48)**

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor<sup>[a]</sup> and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

<sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### **Day and Hour Unknown (Matthew 24:36-44)**

<sup>36</sup> "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,<sup>[a]</sup> but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

<sup>42</sup> "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

### **God is With me (From "Pray in Spirit", Catholic Prayers for Inmates)**

When my days is lonely and depressing,  
*God is with me.*

When my heart aches because I miss my family, friends, and loved ones,  
*God is with me.*

When I overcome a hardship or problem,  
*God is with me.*

When I receive that special letter or visit,  
*God is with me.*

When my day is filled with hope and joy,  
*God is with me.*

## **Psalm 32**

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the one

whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

<sup>2</sup>Blessed is the one

whose sin the LORD does not count against them  
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

<sup>3</sup>When I kept silent,

my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>For day and night

your hand was heavy on me;  
my strength was sapped  
as in the heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you

and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess

my transgressions to the LORD."

And you forgave

the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore let all the faithful pray to you

while you may be found;

surely the rising of the mighty waters

will not reach them.

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding place;

you will protect me from trouble  
and surround me with songs of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like the horse or the mule,

which have no understanding

but must be controlled by bit and bridle

or they will not come to you.

<sup>10</sup>Many are the woes of the wicked,

but the LORD's unfailing love  
surrounds the one who trusts in him.

<sup>11</sup>Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;

sing, all you who are upright in heart!

**A Tree and Its Fruit (Luke 6:43-45)**

<sup>43</sup> “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>44</sup> Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.

<sup>45</sup> A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

**The Serenity Prayer (From “Pray in Spirit”, Catholic Prayers for Inmates)**

God,

Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
The courage to change the things I can,  
And the wisdom to know the difference,  
Living one day at a time,  
Accepting hardships as a pathway to peace.

Let me take, as Jesus did,  
This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it,  
Trusting he will make all things right,  
If I surrender to his will.

May I be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with him forever in the next.

Amen

**A Prayer Before Release (From “Pray in Spirit”, Catholic Prayers for Inmates)**

Lord,

As I walk through the open door, be with me in my freedom and my fear.

Shine your light on the road ahead of me, and keep me faithful to you always.

Amen