

Sarum Primer Prayer

God be in my head, and in my understanding;

God be in my eyes, and in my looking;

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

God be in my heart, and in my thinking;

God be at my end, and at my departing.

Amen.

Amos 8 :4 Hear this, you who trample the needy
and do away with the poor of the land, **5** saying,
"When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?"—
skimping the measure, boosting the price
and cheating with dishonest scales, **6** buying the poor with silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the
wheat. **7** The LORD has sworn by the Pride of Jacob; "I will never forget
anything they have done."

Matthew 25:45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for
one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'¹

Listen Christians by Bob Rowland

I was hungry
and you formed a humanities club and discussed my hunger.
Thank you.

I was imprisoned
and you crept off quietly
to your chapel in the cellar and prayed for my release.

I was naked
and in your mind
you debated the morality of my appearance.

I was sick
and you knelt
and thanked God for your health.

I was homeless
and you preached to me
of the spiritual shelter
of the love of God.

I was lonely
and you left me alone
to pray for me.

You seem so holy;
So close to God.
But I'm still very hungry,
and lonely, and cold So where have your prayers gone? What have they done?
What does it profit a man to page through his book of prayers when the rest of
the world is crying for his help?

For the Courage to Do Justice²

O Lord,
Open my eyes that I may see the needs of others;
Open my ears that I may hear their cries;
Open my heart so that they need not be without help (succor);
Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong,
Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
And use me to bring them to those places.
And so open my eyes and my ears
That I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for thee.
Amen.

² *Shona prayer, Zimbabwe. In: "The Prayers of African Religion", John Mbiti © 1975 SPCK, London, U.K. In the US: Orbis Books, Maryknoll NY, USA, 1975, pp. 148-49.)world council of churches <http://www.oikoumene.org/index.php?id=2757>*

¹ NIV