



Theresa

Lion

Chocolate bars – Mmmm! I wonder what your favourite is?

When Michael was a little boy he discovered the delights of the *Lion Bar*. He *fell in love* with them. He loves them still. He happily remembers the simple plan he'd devised to get his mum to buy him one when they were out shopping.

"Mum," he'd say, "I've been a good boy today, haven't I."

Then, after a pause, Michael would continue: "Can I have a Lion Bar please?"

It usually worked.

Rely-on

When we read the Gospels, it's difficult to imagine ourselves inside the minds of the people who were suspicious of Jesus. They saw his miracles, they heard his teaching: why ever didn't they understand?

Thankfully – we know who Jesus is, and we trust him.

We know that we can totally rely on him to deliver everything he's promised.

Equally, we know that we don't need to use our powers of persuasion with our heavenly Father to get him to do things for us. We know this through experience, and because Jesus tells us.

God's only too willing to give us every good thing.

'Ask, and you shall receive . . .' the Lord tells us.

The thing is, do we know what the truly good things are?

What do we ask for in our prayers?

PRAYING *trusting in God*

Esther 4

Queen Esther likewise had recourse to the Lord. **She prayed to the Lord God of Israel** ⁽¹⁾: My Lord, you who stand alone, come to my help; I am alone and have no help but you. Through my own choice I am endangering my life.

As a child I was wont to hear from the people of the land of my forebears that you, O Lord, chose Israel from among all peoples, and our fathers from among their ancestors to be your lasting heritage; that you did for them, all that you have promised.

Remember us, Lord; reveal yourself in the time of our calamity. Give me courage, King of gods and master of all power. Make my words persuasive when I face the lion; turn his heart against our enemy, that the latter and his like may be brought to their end.

Save us by your hand; help me who am alone and have none but you, O Lord.

Matthew 7

Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened ⁽²⁾. For everyone who asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; and the door will be opened to him who knocks. Would any of you give a stone to your son when he asks for bread? Or give him a snake, when he asks for a fish? As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

So, do to others whatever you would that others do to you: there you have the Law and the Prophets.

trusting the power of prayer

I'm sure that we're all aware that prayer is an essential part of our lives as Christians.

It's a + exercise, not a – one, as it helps to build us up spiritually.

The question is – *are we willing to give prayer a larger slice of our time this Lent?* ⁽¹⁾

If we are – then *what will we ask for; how much will we knock at God's door; how longingly will we seek him out?* ⁽²⁾

Perhaps we might also think to pray for the mission of St Michael's, and that more will come to worship him with us in this holy place, and for our Wednesday Drop-In at St Raphael's Centre and all the other ways we reach out in loving service in Wood Green?