

Plutal prayer: Lord, for many of us, life is a long, hard struggle. It is full of adversity and hardships that sap our strength, fray our nerves, and threaten to overwhelm our spirits.

For us, the image of Jacob is very real. Either we are the ones who live by our shrewdness, by our cunning and constant striving for the wealth, power and handiwork of others, or we are the ones who are victimized by the policies of this world!

All too often we measure our success by what we can swindle and connive, and we forget that you give to us, not because we are deserving, but because you are gracious, loving, and merciful.

In the midst of our hectic and frantic schedules, our scheming and dealing, our hustle and bustle, let us never forget that in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you have given us everything worth having in the midst of life. Amen!