

He does not know the difference between meum and tuum.¹



Possessive Pronouns

According to J C Ryle,² Martin Luther is said to have remarked, “Many are lost because they cannot use possessive pronouns.” What did he mean and what are possessive pronouns? Ryle explains “they can say, He is a Saviour, but not 'my Saviour,'—a Redeemer, but not 'my Redeemer,'—a Priest but not 'my Priest,'—an Advocate, but not 'my Advocate:’ and so they live and die unforgiven.” Whatever you make of this lesson make sure you can call Jesus Christ your Saviour, Redeemer, Priest and Advocate now and for all eternity.

Latin Without Tears page 95-96a (on Volume 7 of the *Mothers' Companion*) introduces possessive pronouns. You will see the patterns these follow (they are just like the adjectives we have already studied) if you look at the *Meus, Tuus, Suus* Colouring sheet which is also on Volume 7. Use the colouring sheet to learn to chant the pronouns.

Bible examples:

*respondit Thomas et dixit ei “Dominus **meus** et Deus **meus**”* John 20:28.

I think you will be able to translate this. *Ei* means “to him.” When did Thomas say this?

*eduxitque eum foras et ait illi “suspicere caelum et numerare stellas si potes” et dixit ei “sic erit semen **tuum**”* Genesis 15:5

God is speaking here to Abraham (*illi* “to that man” i.e. “to him”). This may help you to guess the verse. There are plenty of words here that you know. *Foras* is “outside” or “outdoors.” *Suspice* is a command “look up at.” *Potes* is “you can.” It is related to the English word “potent,” “potential” because (I think) it is about having the power or strength to do something. You can guess the verb *numera*. *Semen* is seed.

*et quicumque non receperint vos, exeuntes de civitate illa etiam pulverem pedum **vestrorum** in testimonium supra illos* Luke 9:5

Jesus is speaking here to his disciples as they set off to tour the country preaching. This is quite hard so I'll give you plenty of clues: *quicumque* is “whoever” (another *qu* = “wh” word) and you might guess *recepertint* (it is a future verb) from the first three letters. *Vos* is “you” and *exeuntes* is related to “exit.” *Ci(vi)t(ate)* is related to “civilize,” “civilian” and I have put the bits of the word that

¹A gentle way of describing someone as a thief!

² J C Ryle, *Practical Religion*, Banner of Truth edition p.9-10.

make it hard to guess in brackets: just add one letter at the end to get the word you need. *Pulverem* is what you get if you pulverise rock. *Pedum* is related to pedal and pedestal. *Excutite* is a command, “shake off.”