

# WEEK TEN

## —Sunday—

*No man can tell of all your greatness and goodness — but here is one man who wants to try! In love, kindness, longsuffering, mercy — protection — in all these ways you are great and good! Let us worship him!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall laud thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts” (Psa. 145:3,4).*

In this generation I want to lift up my voice and heart in adoration. Your greatness is so manifold it will be difficult to express. Yet this is my purpose. You are great in the care and love you supply to all men. There are primitive people whose life appears to us as most difficult. Upon a careful investigation you have somehow given them the ability to cope. It isn't that we should not attempt to help, but I want to acknowledge your provision of courage and survival. In this land of plenty how easy it is to be selfish and forgetful. I want to return praise for every good gift of this day.

*Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.*

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* You are great in so many ways, in each of them I want to praise you: (1) Great in love: how very kind and longsuffering you have been to me; bless your name forever. (2) Great in mercy: ten thousand times ten thousand you have given me good things undeserved. (3) Great in protection: over the millions of miles I have traveled I have not been injured. It is not because of my superior position or person; it is because of your goodness. (4) Great in hope: for each day my hope is in you. For all the days ahead and for eternity my hope is in you. (5) Great in purpose: if I could not open your Word and find my reason for living and dying life would be useless. Surely, “great and greatly to be praised” describes yourself.

*How do you personally relate to the greatness of God, and God who is to be praised? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord, why do I find it sometimes difficult to praise you? It is because my capacity for praise is prostituted on myself or someone or something else. Dear Lord, forgive me! Awaken me to the terrible need to laud your works to the next generation. We are always just one generation from paganism. How I do want to delight myself in your word — in your Son. Forgive me for apathy and business that absorbs the time that should be and could be given to developing the motivation for praise. Ungratefulness is a serious sin. Keep me aware of this.

*What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!*

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin;  
The Light of the world is Jesus;  
Like sunshine at noonday His glory shone in,  
The Light of the world is Jesus.  
Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee;  
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me;  
Once I was blind, but now I can see;  
The Light of the world is Jesus.

*Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.*

### HIS WORD

<sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

<sup>32</sup>So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup>But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them,

because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. —Mark 6:30-34, NIV

Read also Matthew 14:13,14; Luke 9:10,11; John 6:1,2.

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How beautifully thoughtful was our Lord! Jesus had been just as busy as his apostles, but when they returned he suggested they go to a quiet place and get some rest. The apostles had been busy — they reported to our Lord all they had done and taught. How I would like to hear their words! How long did it take for this report? We do not know the length of time, but we do know that during it there was such a press of people with so many to be healed and taught that there was not even time enough to eat. Luke tells us the apostles and our Lord decided that Bethsaida would be a good place for rest.

*Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.*

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

*Just for me.* There was no escaping the crowd and their needs. Indeed, Jesus really did not want to avoid the crowd. Our Lord struggled with the same problem every busy preacher or teacher has: how shall we find enough energy to meet all the needs? How shall we avoid a collapse? Jesus managed it. We are sure our Lord was calling on his Father for strength and grace equal to the task. But we are also sure Jesus was not calling on any resources of strength that are not available to us in overcoming the weaknesses of the flesh. Jesus was relaxed in the midst of his work. It is a clear conscience that gives us the needed confidence and through this the strength to do what needs to be done.

*It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.*

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the spontaneous joy in the hearts of the apostles that prompted them to share with our Lord: (2) Thank you that Jesus did not ignore anyone, but he did decide who would get his attention. (3) Thank you for my Lord's plain statement that rest is necessary. (4) Thank you for the ability of Jesus and the apostles to decide a course of action in the middle of constant demands upon their time. (5) Thank you for the persistence of the crowd — without it they would not have been helped. (6) Thank you for the continual compassion of my Lord. (7) Thank you for the healing ministry of Jesus — so full and complete and satisfying to all.

*Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!*

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"He welcomed them and spoke to them about the*

*kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing."* What an incredible example of unselfishness is our Lord! It was because of the fatigue and lack of rest he and his disciples had started on this journey. When their plans were frustrated Jesus remained calm and allowed the need of the crowd to overcome his need for rest. Fatigue is very largely mental, most especially in the kind of work in which our Lord and his apostles were engaged. The rule of God in the hearts and lives of men was more important than personal comfort. The little phrase ". . . those who needed healing" is most interesting. Jesus did not heal those who deserved healing or those who expected healing, but *all* those who needed it. What a wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord!

*Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.*

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How soon after the death of John did the demands of life crowd in upon our Lord — how like our own life — he needed prayer — so do we: (1) It was important for the disciples to tell Jesus of what they said and did — dear Lord I am glad for this example. (2) The "coming and going" of people was such a drain on the energies of my Lord he needed rest — so do I! Help me to recognize this need. (3) How glad I am to find each day a quiet place where I can talk with you and my Lord — I want to guard it closely. (4) They were not able to find the "solitary place" — but there was a little rest in the boat with him and it was enough. (5) The needs of people took precedence in the life of my Lord — give me grace to follow him.

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me from these busy days of Jesus: (1) "Deepen, oh, deepen your compassion for the sheep without a shepherd." (2) "Teaching — not only food and healing will meet their needs." (3) "Variety in teaching is so important — remember to give it!"

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Iran* — Point for prayer: *Leadership training* is virtually non-existent. There is a small program that has now been launched. Pray for the raising up of strong, spiritual men of God to lead the churches into a new era of growth.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

# WEEK TEN

## —Monday—

*You are a rock amid a sea of sand! You are a fortress in a land of chaos! You are my deliverer when I have been defeated — my shield when I have no protection. I gladly worship you.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; my rock and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues the people under him”* (Psa. 144:1,2). In this psalm of David he is thinking of physical combat. With us we think of the battle of life. We are in a war, we are fighting the good fight of faith. You are described in these two verses as: (1) my rock; (2) the one who trains us for war; (3) the one who prepares our fingers for battle; (4) my fortress; (5) my stronghold; (6) my deliverer; (7) my shield; (8) in whom I take refuge; (9) the one who subdues the people under him. In each of these relationships I lift up my heart in praise!

*Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.*

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* I should begin with the full acknowledgment that you are *Lord* — and then follow each of the nine relationships. I have praised you before in each of these qualities, but since those days you have not changed — praise your name! You are the One solid, unchanging Person I find in this life. I believe that even now, right now you are training me to rout the enemy of my soul. In a particular sense you are refining my preparation so I will be able to overcome in the personal encounter I have with the evil one. I must admit often that the battle is too much for me — I *must* have a resting place — I must find a fortress of meditation and quiet.

*How do you personally relate to the war, and God who prepares us for it? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

All of the above is true — yea more than true. But none of the above is as full and complete as it should

be, and can be. You are my rock, but I have been lost in many a swamp. You can train me for war, but I have been late to class or absent without excuse. You can prepare me for hand-to-hand combat, but I wasn't listening when you spoke. You are my fortress and stronghold, but I would prefer to lay out in the field and complain that I had nowhere to go and it was not my fault if I was overcome. You are my deliverer and shield but I would rather do it myself. Dear, dear Lord, what a terrible admission of my sin. Thank you for opening my eyes. Turn repentance to joy!

*What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!*

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin;  
The Light of the world is Jesus!  
Like sunshine at noonday His glory shone in,  
The Light of the world is Jesus.  
Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee;  
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me;  
Once I was blind, but now I can see;  
The Light of the world is Jesus.

*Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.*

### HIS WORD

<sup>15</sup>As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

<sup>16</sup>Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

<sup>17</sup>“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

<sup>18</sup>“Bring them here to me,” he said. <sup>19</sup>And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he

**gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.** — *Matthew 14:15-19, NIV*

*Read also Mark 6:35-42.*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I am truly hesitant to take up this narrative in your presence! Even your Son used this incident as the basis of a lesson on the bread of life. Truly evening has come and we all are in a remote place! For how many hours had my Lord taught them before supper time? It was a crucial hour — if the crowds were not now sent away they could not get to a village before sundown or in time to eat. What a total shock it was to hear the words of your Son: *“They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat”!* We are sure Jesus did this to open their eyes to their insufficiency and his sufficiency.

*Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.*

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How we would like to have been the little boy on that day! Perhaps we can. As our Lord continued to break the loaves and fish they continued to appear in his hands. Ah, but *before* he did it he prayed. Jesus looked up to heaven. What did he see? The same white clouds and blue sky, but it was all so different to him. He saw also the canopy of space he and his Father had created for these people — and all others who lived under it. Now the same Father and Son were about to create food to feed this hungry multitude. This creation was to be just as subtle as the present one on which and under which these people lived. If those who ate did not look very closely they would hardly know from whence it came. Indeed, some never did! But one little boy did!

*It is so important to pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.*

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the obvious extremity which became your opportunity. (2) Thank you for the practical interest of the disciples in the welfare of the people. (3) Thank you that Jesus opened the eyes of the disciples as to just how all needs are met: by himself. (4) Thank you that Jesus asks us to feed the multitude — through him. (5) Thank you that Jesus alone can feed the world, but he cannot feed the world alone. (6) Thank you for the little boy and his lunch — so like all of us. (7) Thank you for the orderliness of this whole incident — so like God!

*Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!*

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*“Then Jesus directed them to have all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass.”* Our Lord knew what he was doing at all times. His total confidence amid every circumstance is an evidence of his

deity. It is also good to see how Jesus did not himself do everything; he gave instructions to others and trusted them with the task. The orderliness of the feeding of this multitude is not the last of its features. Mark indicates they were separated into groups of fifties and hundreds. It must have been a beautiful sight. With the variety of colors in the robes of the people as they were seated in groups they would look much like so many flower beds spread across the hills in the green grass. How beautiful are all his ways!

*Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.*

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the preparations for this miracle of creation there is much about which to pray: (1) The disciples were concerned about the needs of the crowd — even as I want to be — but I want to look beyond the physical. (2) Indeed, “it is already getting late” — for me and the generation of which I am a part. If ever they are to have the bread of heaven it must be now! (3) Jesus never sent anyone away empty — Lord, make me such a teacher! (4) My Lord asked the disciples to feed the crowd, even when he knew and they knew they could not do it — “. . . apart from me you can do nothing.” (5) Five loaves and two fish in the hands of Jesus are more than enough for a multitude. (6) Love is doing what my Lord says — even when I do not understand.

*Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to my heart again: (1) “Even Jesus pleased not himself — but those who did not appreciate what he gave.” (2) “Giving of thanks is always in order.” (3) “One of the disciples — yea, *two* of the disciples who distributed the loaves gave their eyewitness account.”

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Iran* — Point for prayer: *Missions* — There are no longer any missions working in Iran. Pray for those laboring among the Irani diaspora, and for others to be called into this key ministry. Pray open the door to the many unreached peoples in Iran. How else can they hear?

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, Thou Almighty King,  
Help us Thy name to sing,  
Help us to praise.  
Father, all glorious,  
O'er all victorious,  
Come, and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days.

# WEEK TEN

## —Tuesday—

*How wonderful to have God for my King — and have a King for my God! I have found 365 attributes of yourself for which I can praise you and yet there are more!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“I will extol thee, my God and King, and bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day I will bless thee, and praise thy name for ever and ever” (Psa. 145:1,2).*

What are the characteristics of yourself in these verses for which I can praise you? (1) The fact that it is possible to find qualities of yourself for which I can lift words of praise is in itself an attribute of yourself. (2) You are my God, the one before whom I bow and to whom I gladly give obeisance. (3) My king — the ruler of all. The present reigning monarch — the One who shall reign eternally. (4) It will be possible in eternity to continue our praise — throughout the endless life of heaven we shall have no problem finding reasons to lift our voices in wonder and adoration. (5) Each day I am alive on this earth I can extol your goodness.

*Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.*

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* In this song of praise David is setting an example of continual praise. The qualities I see in your word for praise shall never fail. Should I live to the advanced age of one hundred I shall never exhaust the reasons for adoration of your very self. I am growing in my understanding of all it means to worship you as my God. In you I live and move and have my being, but totally outside of myself are the worlds you have made. (1) You have created such a lovely world of plants and trees. To know the One who has created the leaf I hold in my hand is a true source of wonder. (2) You have created the animal world. Our little dog is a curious and interesting example. I bow in amazement before you as Creator.

*How do you personally relate to praising God, and God who is praiseworthy? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

In eternity — in the world and life to come I will indeed extol thee forever and forever. It is also very possible to praise you several times during this day. Will I do it? If the yesterdays are any example it could be that I will not. But yesterdays *are not* the examples. It is in David and in the lives of many others who worshiped you daily I have an example. The attitude of praise and gratitude is such a wonderful way to live. Forgive me for living below the plane of joy.

*What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!*

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Fairest Lord Jesus!  
Ruler of all nature!  
O Thou of God and man the Son!  
Thee will I cherish,  
Thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown!

*Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.*

### HIS WORD

<sup>12</sup>Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.”

<sup>13</sup>He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish — unless we go and buy food for this crowd.”<sup>14</sup>(About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.”<sup>15</sup>The disciples did so, and everybody sat down. <sup>16</sup>Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. —Luke 9:12-16, NIV  
*Read also John 6:3-12.*

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

This is surely one of the most impressive of all the miracles your Son did during his whole ministry. I do want to allow each of these blessed words to enter my heart. The twelve came to Jesus to give him an order. "Send the crowd away. . . ." Were they a little impatient with the interruption of the proposed rest? It was Andrew who found the boy with the five loaves and two fish. Andrew brought the lad to Jesus. This seems typical of this man: he brought his brother Peter to Jesus, he brought some Greeks to Jesus and now here a little boy. I am sure we shall never be able to appreciate the total impact of this miracle, but we can praise you and thank you for it.

*Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.*

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

John says all who were there that day ate all they wanted — or ate until they were filled. Did anyone but our Lord thank the creator of all for what they were eating? The attitude of the crowd in throwing the fragments on the ground would indicate something of their carelessness. We wonder if when the apostles came to collect the partially eaten pieces did they have any help from the crowd. It must have taken some time to walk over the hills where each of the groups had been gathered and search out the broken pieces. Dear Lord, had I been there would I have helped them? I would like to think I would have. At least I want to do so now.

*It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.*

## READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the countermand of Jesus in his words, "You give them something to eat." (2) Thank you for the little lad — he never forgot that day. (3) Thank you for every single group — how I want to take my place in this picnic! (4) Thank you that all four biographers recorded this miracle. (5) Thank you that with my Lord nothing is wasted. (6) Thank you that nobody argued with my Lord. (7) Thank you that this miracle was so prominent no one ever thought of doubting it.

*Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!*

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"They all ate and were satisfied." How typically beautiful is the feeding of these people and our Lord's response to the needs of the whole world. I believe there is not only more than enough food to feed the whole world, there is an abundance! There is more than enough to serve bread to the men and women of the earth. If the several million followers of our Lord would unite in their efforts to meet the needs of mankind we would soon have all eating and satisfied. How abundantly our Lord would satisfy the hearts of

all men! When Jesus created the physical world he did so in a most lavish manner. Consider just the leaves for one tree — or the stars of one galaxy! It is the tragedy of all tragedies that the bread of life is held to the pantry while the world starves to death.

*Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.*

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

We shall look through the eyes and hearts of Luke and John at this same miracle: (1) John says the Passover was near — indeed it was part of the Passover crowd he fed — am I as blind and preoccupied with my own affairs as were some of these religious folk? (2) Test my understanding and faith today — may I learn as well as Philip. (3) Andrew was "Mr. Nobody" — but it was Andrew who became very important by finding the boy with his lunch — may I learn this lesson. (4) There is something wonderfully orderly about all the actions of Jesus. Can I learn something here?

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

## READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me out of this miracle: (1) "Jesus blessed both the loaves and the fish — so must everything be brought to me." (2) "Jesus gave more than enough — how do you give?"

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iran — Point for prayer: *The Kurdish people* in the north west need to be evangelized. Their number has greatly increased with a large influx of Iraqi Kurds fleeing their land since the Iraqi government crushed their uprising with great ferocity in 1975. There are just a few seeking to reach these unfortunate people — pray for the planting of churches.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus is all the world to me,  
My life, my joy, my all;  
He is my strength from day to day,  
Without Him I would fall.  
When I am sad, to Him I go,  
No other one can cheer me so;  
When I am sad He makes me glad,  
He's my friend.

# WEEK TEN

## —Wednesday—

*I can and want to tell of the beauty of your rule in the hearts of men. It is like a treasure hid in my backyard — like a beautiful pearl — like a wedding feast. Like a great meal you have prepared!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and tell of thy power, to make known to the sons of men thy mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of thy kingdom”* (Psa. 145:11,12).

If ever there was a fulfillment of these verses it is today! Of all men we can tell of the character of your kingdom. Your Son came announcing the soon coming of your kingdom. Since the beginning your rule in the hearts of men is your one glorious purpose. The fulness of this kingdom is found in the acceptance of the Lordship of Jesus. Your dear Son described your kingdom as a treasure hid in the field — a pearl of great price — like a mustard seed. Your “mighty deeds” as seen in the ministry of your Son are surely a source of good news. How men today need to hear of “the glorious splendor of thy kingdom.” What a privilege to tell of such a king and of such a rule.

*Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.*

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* How shall I tell of the glory or essence of the body of your Son? — even his church. All of the kingdom is not seen in the church but the ultimate is here. I want to say that your kingdom is like a wedding feast. All who participate should be happy, but also related to what is happening. We can be happily engaged in our own interests and not be prepared when the bridegroom comes. I want to say your kingdom is like the return of a wealthy landowner to ask for a reckoning with his servants. Those who used what the master gave them to the master’s advantage were rewarded — those who didn’t were thrown out as unprofitable servants. The kingdom is like a gathering of all before the throne of the king of the universe. He will then tell us that when we served others we served him!

*How do you personally relate to the kingdom of God, and God who is King?*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

In all these familiar relationships I rejoice — and I also am moved to repentance. In each of the above areas I do want to change my mind: (1) I want to discover anew today the beauty and value of the forgiveness of sin and the eternal home. (2) I do purpose to sell all I have that I might have the one pearl of great price! (3) How I do want this day to fill up my vessel with the glad oil of gladness — may I be that kind of a light to someone. (4) Use whatever you have given me to your advantage. Give me thoughtful decisions in the use of all your goods. (5) I do want to see your Son in the person of those with whom I live today. Most of all, forgive me for not telling those who need to hear of the glorious splendor of thy kingdom.

*What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.*

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Thou, my everlasting portion,  
More than friend or life to me;  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Savior, let me walk with Thee.  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Savior, let me walk with Thee.

*Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.*

### HIS WORD

<sup>13</sup>So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

<sup>14</sup>After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is come into the world.” <sup>15</sup>Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again into the hills by himself. —John

6:13-15, NIV

Read also Matthew 14:20,21; Mark 6:43,44; Luke 9:17.

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is in the recovery of the fragments that Matthew and Mark indicate how many were fed. Counting the women and children along with the men there must have been no less than 15,000 fed that wonderful day. I am sure no one ever ate a better barley loaf or tasted a better piece of fish than the ones created by my Lord. The baskets used for the gathering — small baskets would not have permitted the rapid distribution of that day. Dear Lord, I am trying to enter the scene and sit with the crowd. I want to move over the hills and help the apostles gather up the leftovers.

*Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.*

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

*Just for me.* The people who followed him did so because of his miracles. When they had shared in this miracle some of them were ready to take him by force and carry him to Jerusalem at the Passover as their king! Dear Lord, you *are* my king. I need to ask myself just *why* I want you to be my king. Do I follow you for the bread and the fish? Supposing I were suddenly placed in the harsh environment of one of the several third world countries I have seen — would I then serve you? My Lord had to retire for eight or nine hours of prayer just after this clamor to make him king. My dear Lord, I do want to serve you just for your own dear self and my love for you — deepen and purify my motives.

*It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.*

## READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the insistence of the writers that at least 15,000 were fed. (2) Thank you for the tangible evidence of such a great miracle in the pieces left over. (3) Thank you for some who looked beyond the food to the One who had given it to them. (4) Thank you for my Lord who was indeed a Prophet — but much more than a prophet. (5) Thank you for the power of the personality of my Lord that he was able to dismiss the crowd who wanted to make him king. (6) Thank you that even Jesus felt his need to be alone and separated even from his disciples. (7) Thank you for the clear strong purpose by which my Lord walked all the way to Calvary.

*Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!*

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*“Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again into the hills by himself.”* We do wonder just how often our Lord needed to find this solitude with God? There are many of us who do not have the pre-conditioning that would make such a withdrawing beneficial. A vacation or a temporary “break” in the routine can be very boring. It was only because Jesus had established

contact with the Father in the usual daily living that a visit to the mountains became a real source of strength to him. If we have not established a prayer habit we are quite uncomfortable both when we are by ourselves in prayer and when we are called upon to lead in public devotion. These people did not want his personal rule in their lives, hence Jesus withdrew.

*Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.*

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In this record of gathering up the broken pieces that nothing should be lost there is much pause for prayer: (1) Jesus was against waste and loss — I want to be like him — but with the same attitude! (2) What immense crowd must have been present to have left such a quantity of fragments — impress on me again the wonder of this sign. (3) At least some of the people caught the supernatural aspects of what was happening — guard me against jumping at conclusions that are only partially thought out. (4) Deliver me from the inordinate praise of men. (5) Deliver me from any desire to seek such praise.

*Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!*

## READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You have spoken to me so many times in the record of this miracle — do it again: (1) “Surely I was *the Prophet* — but I must also decide what is to be done.” (2) “Jesus needed to be by himself to pray when men wanted to acclaim him — go thou and do likewise.” (3) “The fresh bread from heaven is available every day to give you new life.”

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Iran — Point for prayer: The university students are neglected — pray for the raising up of a witness to them. Pray also for the conversion of Iranian students studying in other lands.*

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

My Jesus, I love Thee,  
I know Thou art mine,  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.



# WEEK TEN

## —Thursday—

*I lean heavily on your arm — I am falling — uphold me! I am bowed down with sorrow — raise me up! Such help is available to all!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down”* (Psa. 145:14). I like this lovely verse because it refers to me. But I know I am no different than millions of other persons who have this problem. In these words we find such strength and encouragement. For one reason or another man becomes weak and begins to stumble. He is like a man sick or drunk, he cannot walk. There is no word here as to why he falls — it is describing the help of the helpless not the sin of the sinful. I am so glad for the frequent use of that little word “*all*.” It is the very nature of yourself to reach out to help those who stumble. The second part of the sentence is in some ways even more of a source of praise — “The Lord . . . raises up all who are bowed down.” Even if we have not stumbled there are times when we carry an intolerable burden.

*Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.*

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

*Just for me.* In a most personal practical way I want to tell you how you have fulfilled this verse in my life and praise you for it. (1) I have been falling away from your desire to save the lost world in which I live. You have so many ways of lifting me and protecting me from this deception of Satan. You lead me to a magazine that describes the successful evangelistic efforts of people just like me. You give me a class to teach — I cannot teach what I do not do. (2) I have a sore temptation to mistake a part for the whole in the development of human character. It is so easy to condemn a whole class because of two or three poor students; to write-off a whole congregation because of a few unconverted leaders. Thank you so much for opening my eyes and heart to your value system.

*How do you personally relate to the strength of God, and God who is our strength? Speak it out or write it out.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How sad it is to admit that the divine help was available but I did not want it! I was falling and did not want to be stopped. I was bowed down but refused help. Why? Why? It is because there was a perverse sense of enjoyment in falling — or at least I was deceived into believing there would be. Satan’s lie has been: “Isn’t it easier to let the world go to hell? They are going there anyway — they don’t care, or want salvation.” It has *not* been easier. Men *can* be saved if we will teach them. What an easy mark we have become for our enemies’ fiery darts of pride! Somehow we imagine someone’s failure in class is a reflection on our integrity. What a mistake! Somehow we decide we are “the pastor” or leader or head of the church and those who will not learn are a reflection on us. Dear God, forgive me!

*What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now.*

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Abide with me, fast falls the even tide,  
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

*Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.*

### HIS WORD

<sup>45</sup>Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup>After leaving them, he went into the hills to pray.

<sup>47</sup>When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he alone was on land. <sup>48</sup>He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them. —Mark 6:45-48, NIV  
Read also John 6:16-18.

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, will I ever be able to say anything adequate to express my constant amazement at actions of your Son? How I wonder if the disciples asked him what he was going to do or if they wanted to know where he was going. It would seem there was an irresistible urgency in our Lord. Both the crowds and the disciples responded to it. How I would like to know what he said in his prayer. Did Jesus know he was going to defy the laws of gravity and walk on the surface of the lake? Did he know the heart needs of his disciples — we know he did — was this the content of his prayer?

*Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.*

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How was it possible for Jesus to see the disciples in the middle of the night two or three miles from the shore as they struggled in the raging waters? Our Lord walked several miles on the surface of the lake to reach the boat. I want to get into the boat with the disciples. Indeed, I have been out there many a time, i.e., the ship of my life has often been "making headway painfully." There are such poignant touches in the different accounts of his appearance: (1) *Matthew* says: ". . . they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear." (2) *Mark* says: "He meant to pass by them." (3) *John* says: ". . . they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat." Such an amazing miracle! Dear Lord, I believe!

*It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.*

## READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the three accounts which all contribute something different. (2) Thank you for his blessed words: "It is I; do not be afraid." (3) Thank you for Mark's account: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." (4) Thank you for the credibility of this miracle — several men were involved and the distance was great. (5) Thank you for the wonderful way our Lord combined meeting the needs of the disciples and demonstrating his deity. (6) Thank you for the time our Lord chose for the miracle — the most unlikely possible. (7) Thank you for the cumulative effect of his miracles.

*Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!*

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Take heart, it is I; have no fear." How often we do need to hear these words! It would seem our ship is caught in a storm most of the time. We need these powerful words each day. Our courage comes from our relationship with our Lord. Only when we recognize who he is does a calm possess our hearts. Jesus wanted the disciples to see him — this is in-

dicated in Mark's comment that he appeared to want to walk past them. How he does have ways of attracting our attention so we will look through the storm and see him. How much more meaningful it was for Jesus to walk on the water at night in the midst of a storm rather than in the broad daylight on a calm lake. This calls attention to the need of the disciples as well as his deity. A daylight performance would have been just a performance.

*Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.*

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Our Lord is full of unexpected words and actions — as he retired to pray so I want to pause before those verses to pray: (1) Jesus did not even want his disciples to stay around for gossip about the miracle — he wanted to "call the shots" — it is so today! (2) I do wonder what he said to dismiss and disperse the crowd? He needs to break up some of our assemblies — give us ears to hear him. (3) Since Jesus put them in the boat and sent them out on the water didn't the disciples wonder when such a terrible storm broke on them? It happens now in my own life — let me learn. (4) Jesus looked through the dark night and saw the disciples at a distance of several miles — can I doubt that he sees me even now?

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

## READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

What wonderful encouragement is in this incident for me: (1) "I see your strain and confusion." (2) "I will test your faith to secure my response." (3) "Trust me — I know — I see — I care."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Iran* — Point for prayer: *Christian literature is in surprisingly great demand*, but supplies and distributors are limited. Praise God for the courageous colportage work of Irani Christians, several Christian bookshops, as well as the work of the Bible Society. Pray also for cassettes, videos, correspondence courses, Bibles and literature distributed before the revolution. Bibles are now being printed in Iran, but only four language groups have a Bible; many languages are without anything of God's Word.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

We praise Thee, O God,  
For the Son of Thy love,  
For Jesus who died  
And is now gone above.

Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Hallelujah! Amen;  
Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.

# WEEK TEN

## —Friday—

*We worship One who is just in all his ways — who is kind in all he does — who is here for all who call upon him! One who walks on the water to help us.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth” (Psa. 145:17,18).*

How easy it is when the sun is shining and every prospect pleases to agree with the psalmist. But let the clouds gather in the sky and we begin to wonder — if the thunder rolls and the lightning strikes, we are sure some mistake has been made by the One who controls such activities. Dear Lord, I want to affirm my faith in your justice. I believe that whereas I cannot understand here it will not take you longer than a few years to explain it all when I awake in your likeness. Justice is easier to accept for all conditions than *kindness*, and yet I know full well such is indeed true of yourself.

*Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.*

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I claim just now the promise of the eighteenth verse: *“The Lord is near to all who call upon him. . . .”* As I lift my heart to you in praise and adoration I sense your presence and power. There is a deep awareness of peace in my heart; thank you for your grace! I must add the little phrase which is the key to this door of blessings: *“To all who call upon him in truth.”* It is only when my heart is in agreement with what you have written that I have a claim upon this promise. Sin has a way of desensitizing our inner being. I do not come to persuade you to accommodate your word to my understanding or desires. I come to call upon you as a Father who can forgive and help His child. I *want* to do your will, O God.

*How do you personally relate to the kindness of God, and God who is kind? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How profoundly interesting is this time of worship. In

this time before you I discover the depths of your truth and of the deception of my heart. How terribly destructive is the decision that in any circumstance you are not just or kind! How utterly devious to the human personality it is to call upon you out of falsehood! May I relax just now, and as a child who trusts the love and wisdom of his parents say out of faith: “You are just in all your ways and kind in all your doings.” I will never call upon you until I have repented of my sin and have brought my conduct in line with your word. How essential then is a daily confession of my sin and a wholehearted acceptance of your forgiveness!

*What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!*

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I will sing the wondrous story  
Of the Christ who died for me,  
How he left His home in glory  
For the cross of Calvary.  
Yes, I'll sing . . . the wondrous story  
Of the Christ . . . who died for me, . . .  
Sing it with . . . the saints in glory,  
Gathered by . . . the crystal sea.

*Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.*

### HIS WORD

<sup>25</sup>During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup>When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup>But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” —Matthew 14:25-27, NIV  
About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, <sup>49</sup>but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, <sup>50</sup>because

they all saw him and were terrified. —Mark 6:48b-50, NIV

<sup>16</sup>When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, <sup>17</sup>where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. <sup>18</sup>A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." —John 6:16-20, NIV

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The disciples evidently believed in the presence of ghosts. We would understand this to be tantamount to the presence of demons. It must have been an accepted tradition that demons would at times appear in such a form. There was *indeed* something strange and frightening out there on the surface of the lake. I want to see this situation as much like the disciples as at all possible. Matthew (who was present in the boat) says they actually recognized Jesus, but because no one can walk on the water they simply would not accept what their eyes told them. The cries of fear and dread can be heard in my imagination even now.

*Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.*

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Jesus wasted no time calling attention to the sensational aspects of this miracle. He "*immediately*" spoke to them. The disciples could think of no reason for a ghost appearing to them, unless to strike terror into their hearts as they went into death through drowning. In another 30 seconds the emotions of the disciples would be out of control and panic would have taken over. It must have been with a loud firm voice my Lord said, "*Take heart, it is I; have no fear*"! Dear Lord, how I want to hear you speak to me in every situation! In the midst of a financial storm — "Take heart; it is I." While the waves of personal family problems roll: "Take heart; it is I." In all of such storms I hear him say: "Have no fear."

*It is so important that you pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.*

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the small details of this account that make it so credible. (2) Thank you that two who were there (Matthew and John) told the story. (3) Thank you for Mark who was glad to report from these eyewitnesses. (4) Thank you that these men acted in such an expected manner. I relate wholly to them. (5) Thank you for the planning of my Lord evident in this incident. (6) Thank you for this demonstration of my Lord's power over the laws he himself originated. (7) Thank you for the multiplied thousands who have found assurance in these beautiful words.

*Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!*

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat." Three or four miles of rowing under the heavy weather here described would take several hours. It would seem the sea was not so dangerous that they were to be drowned — perhaps they were close to their destination when Jesus appeared upon the water. It would also seem that they saw him from some distance and became increasingly frightened as he approached them. We wonder at the guarded remarks of John (6:19), but then we remember he was a fisherman. Matthew and Mark were not fishermen and their accounts are full of terror.

*Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.*

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the early hours of the morning — while it was still dark Jesus came to them "walking on the lake." (1) Jesus does come at the strangest times and ways — but just when we need him most — thank you! (2) The disciples had no explanation but your supernatural power — this is enough. (3) I am terrified at the wrong person or thing; why should I be terrified at all? Help me. (4) The disciples believed in the spirit world — help me to share their faith. (5) Our Lord is immediate in his response to need — I want to remember for this day and its needs. (6) Why did he direct his steps as if he would pass them by? So it does seem full many a time in our own experience. He didn't — and he will not today.

*Please, please remember these are prayers — speak them — reword them!*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As he spoke to them in the dark storm of the early morning — speak to me: (1) "I am never far away — you are." (2) "I see you now as I did with them then." (3) "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Iran* — Point for prayer: *Bible correspondence courses* have been a very fruitful ministry among Muslims. The largest has handled over 45,000 applications and applicants come from every religious background.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine,  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;  
If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus 'tis now.

# WEEK TEN

## —Saturday—

*Our God sets prisoners free — opens blind eyes. He lifts up all who are bowed down. He loves righteousness because he knows its glorious benefits. He is our God — let us worship him.*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous” (Psa. 146:7b,8).*

We are reminded of the words of your Son in Nazareth’s synagogue. The psalmist found the same promise fulfilled in yourself. What more obvious evidence that you and your Son are one in nature? It is your purpose to set all the prisoners free! Praise your wonderful name! How all men can relate to this blessed good news. We could easily describe this whole planet as held captive. We have been taken captive and are held as hostage by the Evil One. Wonder of wonders the ransom has been paid and the hostages are set free! There is an infection that has blinded the eyes of the hearts of all men. Praise your name, the Great Physician has come! Those who are lifted up and whom you love are those once blind prisoners!

*Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God. Speak it audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.*

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Unless and until I can be specific the above description is but one of the millions of pious platitudes written and spoken over the years for the amusement of man’s ego! What are the areas where I have been set free? What have I been since I became a Christian that indicates I once was blind? Dear Lord, I am glad to answer those probing questions: (1) *I am free from every sin back of the last one I confessed!* (I feel like cramming such a testimony down Satan’s throat!) (2) *I am free of hopelessness* — I have the highest possible hope for all I do in this life and the hope of heaven is an excitement beyond words. (3) *I am free of anxiety.* I believe my whole life is in the hands of — not my employer — but my Father. In my liberty, I find my sight!

*How do you personally relate to the liberating*

*power of God, and God who sets us free? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

It is good that every day I can be reminded of the dichotomy operative in my experience. I am the prisoner set free, yet at times I am hindered and bound. I am the blind man who was given his sight and yet there are glorious vistas to which I have been blind. I am the one who was raised up and yet today I am “down” in my spirit. Why? Why? The answer is threefold: (1) *The process is continuous.* There will be new freedoms and new vistas and new burdens lifted every day; (2) *The process is growing.* What I did not know was bondage yesterday I discovered today. What we never looked for yesterday we revel in today. An inward burden that we did not see was lifted. (3) *Satan is a liar.* We have imagined with the devil’s help many shackles and eye problems and burdens that never existed! Praise your name, I am fine!

*What personal sins do you want to confess? We must speak them to remove them. Do it! Now. There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!*

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Take time to be holy,  
Speak oft with thy Lord;  
Abide in Him always,  
And feed on His Word.  
Make friends of God’s children;  
Help those who are weak;  
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

*Open your hymn book and sing the rest of the verses — or even sing another prayer song.*

### HIS WORD

<sup>28</sup>“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

<sup>29</sup>“Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

<sup>32</sup>And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup>Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." — *Matthew 14:28-33, NIV*

*Read also Mark 6:51,52; John 6:21.*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The daring of Peter has been a challenge to men over the centuries. There are many good things about Peter's request: (1) He wanted to confirm his faith in our Lord. (2) He accepted the supernatural nature of our Lord — it was almost more than he could understand but he did believe. (3) He believed Jesus even in this supernatural position would take an interest in Peter. (4) He believed that whatever Jesus said it would happen. There were also several hasty ill-judged aspects of Peter's request. (1) It would seem he wanted to do something no one else did — or could — but from the wrong motive. (2) Attention to himself would have resulted if he completed his walk.

*Please express your response to this beautiful text. Put your expression in your own prayer diary.*

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear Lord, perhaps I have misjudged Peter and he had no such motives. It does seem that the other apostles would soon make the same request and all would be walking on the water. Forgive me if I have not understood this correctly. It was the command of Jesus that got Peter out of the boat and controlled gravity. It was also the living faith of Peter that made it possible. It would seem that when his focus of attention was broken by the winds and the waves the control of our Lord was also broken and he began to sink. How full of meaning this is for me.

*Pause in his presence and either audibly or in written form tell him all his word means to you.*

### READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for our Lord's patient love for Peter. (2) Thank you that Jesus was willing to honor Peter's faith. (3) Thank you that Jesus never took his eyes off Peter. (4) Thank you for the all-inclusive request of Peter: "Lord save me." (5) Thank you for the immediate response of my Lord to his need. (6) Thank you for the clear definition of faith and doubt in this text. (7) Thank you for the unqualified expression of worship directed toward our Lord: "Truly you are the Son of God."

*Give yourself to your own expression of gratitude — write it or speak it!*

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"And when they got into the boat the wind ceased."*

Even this storm had an end. Is there something analogous about this action? We could find a comparison or two. (1) In both incidents of the storm on the lake it was when they were aware of who was with them that the storm subsided. When we become aware of just who is in the same boat with us the wind will cease. We are so prone to living our life as if Jesus was somewhere in the middle of the lake. (2) Our Lord is interested in every trip of every disciple. He sees us in our distress, he shares our efforts to overcome. He marks our location and is there to help.

*Pause — wait — think — then express yourself in thoughtful praise or thanks.*

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In impetuous Peter we see ourselves over and over — he needed prayer — so do we: (1) Why did Peter need assurance? Jesus was willing to give it — thank you. (2) Walking on the water supports his deity — not our greatness — please let me remember. (3) In just that wonderful one-word answer: "Come," we have such encouragement! In how many situations will it fit today? (4) Peter did it! But for what purpose? Lord, examine my motives! (5) It was only the wind — but it made him afraid and he began to sink! Keep my eyes on your Son! (6) Here is a clear definition of faith — trust me — look to me — obey me.

*Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.*

### READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

There is much to hear and learn in this text: (1) "There is no time or place for doubt in your relationship with me!" (2) "I uphold all things by the word of my power." (3) "Signs are not the product — I would have been the Son of God if I never did one miracle."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Iran — Point for prayer: Christian radio has even more importance since the departure of all missionaries. Pray for those who prepare programs, and for an increase in hours and languages.*

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all,  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all!