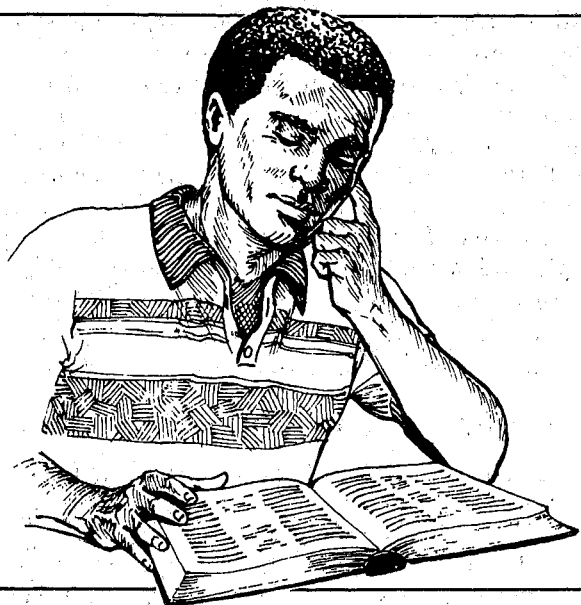


WEEK ELEVEN

—Sunday—

*There is no broken heart he cannot heal
— there is no star he has not named —
there is no question he cannot answer.
How great is our God!*



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars, he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure” (Psa. 147:3-5). How wide is the expanse of qualities here ascribed to yourself! (1) You take a personal interest in the emotional and physical life of every man. (2) You know when we hurt and if we will come to you you can bind up our wounds and they will heal. (3) You also have an interest in the stars. You have created them all and you have named them all. (4) We must say with the ancient singer — “Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.” Praise your name!

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

How I do want to appropriate each of these attributes to my own life! Dear Lord, how much I do need you! I am so glad to come to Someone who can put together the pieces of the puzzle called my life. It would seem it needs repair quite often. I have had thoughts or intellectual schemes that seem to fall apart. In areas when I have been determined to go or stay. I have done neither. My emotions have *not* been compatible with reality. In all of these ways my heart has been broken. I come to you and what a peace and wholeness I find! Your thoughts hold together — your determination is backed with your power to perform. My emotional response to what you have said and done is solid and true. The more I see of the large world outside the atmosphere of this earth the larger becomes the meaning of the expression: “his understanding is beyond measure.”

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Because of who you are and who I am the element of confession is surely a necessary part of my praise. At the same time I do *want* to confess my sin, I am glad to come to the One in whom I have unqualified confidence — to One who I know does not resent my coming — indeed I believe you are glad and warmly welcome me each time I turn my thoughts toward you. I am delighted to hold up my broken heart and ask you to make it whole. How many stars are there? Even man’s computers would have a problem with such a figure. To create and sustain each one is enough — but to know them in detail and give them a name! You will have no problem with my little life — what seems complex to me is simple for you. Thank you for forgiveness!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
“Take thy cross and follow, follow Me.”

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

HIS WORD

⁵³When they had crossed over, they landed at Genesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And everywhere he went — into villages, towns or countryside — they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

—Mark 6:53-56, NIV

Read also Matthew 14:34-36.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How rewarding it is to read again and again this in-

teresting passage. I wonder what the disciples thought as they stepped out of the boat and saw all the people? The disciples were so full of wonder and amazement at what had just happened. They were hardly ready for the rushing about of people to get their sick healed. The impact of the divinity of their Lord was still with them. This frenzied effort to use the Lord as a free source of physical help must have hit these disciples with a solid blow. Dear Lord, am I reading this aright? How I do want to!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

If there ever was an example of wholesale healing it is described here. I wonder just how many people were involved? There must have been hundreds if not thousands. There seems to be no resistance on the part of our Lord. Jesus knew what he was about. His mission was teaching. The healing was done and was not ignored or shunted to the side, but neither did it become first place. It was indeed first place in the lives of those who were sick. How could these people appreciate a lesson while they remained lame or palsied or nauseous? But there were more who were not sick and they needed healing of a different sort. How many of the healed became consistent converts? It is remarkable to read: "All who touched him were healed."

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 wonderful popularity of my Lord. (2) Thank you that Jesus used his popularity to teach that many more people. (3) Thank you for the record of those who were there when it happened. (4) Thank you for the instantaneous, permanent healings of my Lord. (5) Thank you that there were none who were not healed who came to be healed. (6) Thank you that none who come to him today for the healing of their hearts are turned away disappointed. (7) Thank you we now have the purpose of his healing, i.e., his own deity.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed." It would seem that there was almost superstitious devotion directed toward our Lord. Jesus did not encourage such an attitude; at the same time he did not attempt to reprove these people. The remarkable fact is that "all who touched him were healed." Was it their faith that made them well? Of course it was, but of course it was our Lord's own power or "virtue" that healed these people. He never approved or disapproved of such action. His primary purpose was to teach. If these same persons stayed to listen they

would have received something more valuable than their healing. We would like to believe many of them did.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Surely our Lord is at the height of his popularity. I want to relate to this in prayer for wisdom: (1) If the hearts of those who served the bread and the fish were confused and burdened, what hope is there for me? The same as there was for them; open my eyes! (2) It would seem the multitude related to Jesus on a very physical, selfish manner — but he did not rebuke them. Lord, I want to learn from this — help me. (3) Did Jesus teach them while he healed them? Or was there too much confusion? The healing was a form of teaching — meeting needs teaches so much — may I not forget. (4) All who touched him — and all he touched were healed — no failures. It is my heart that I want him to touch. It is my eyes I want him to open.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Nothing is said in these verses — but they do have a voice for me: (1) "I did pile up miracle upon miracle for a purpose — have you accepted it?" (2) "I can touch you — you can touch me in a more meaningful way today than then." (3) ". . . and all who touched him were healed."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iraq — Population: 15,475,000. Growth rate — 3.4%. Average people per sq. km. — 36.

Point for prayer: *The deep woes through which Iraqis have passed are decisively changing the nation.* Praise that it is God in control of this situation. Pray that there might be opportunity for the gospel to be freely preached. The land is completely closed for any form of open evangelism. The few remaining missionaries were expelled in 1969.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest name on earth.
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me!

WEEK ELEVEN

—Monday—

We worship One who is emotionally responsive — i.e., he “takes pleasure” in our trust in him. My hope is in his steadfast love. It is a joy to worship him!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man; but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love” (Psa. 147:10,11). In David’s day the above reference was probably to the cavalry and the infantry of the army of that day. The strength and defense of a nation is not in their military build-up but in his steadfast love. God is not impressed with man’s brains any more than his legs. Dear Father, I am glad to be reminded of the real priorities of value in personal and national defense. Our hope is in you or we have no hope.

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

I am simply delighted to acknowledge the fact that you can and do “take pleasure” in my fear and hope in you. What beautiful contrasts are fear (or reverence) and hope! Like the net of a fisherman hope is the cork and fear is the lead. In this manner the net is held in the water to catch all the benefits of life. Such a net is actually held against your “steadfast love” and what a draught is taken! If I am willing to accept without question some circumstances that plunge to the bottom my plans and pleasures; if at the same time I hold buoyantly to your steadfast love and hope in your character I am sure I will catch the greatest possible benefits of this life. Praise your name!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

How easy it is to fall into Satan’s trap of pride. It has been made by the evil one to seem natural to trust in man’s ability. How easily we congratulate ourselves

for our buildings or rockets! How obvious it all seems that we should take pride in the products of our brains. Dear Lord, the editorial “we” must be dropped. I stand blood-guilty before you! Forgive *me* not *them*. I am afraid of hell. I cringe and recoil at the thought of prolonged pain. I do fear you in this sense, but I am much more impressed with your greatness and steadfast love. I do indeed admit your justice and your mercy. In all of this attempt at confession I do want to sincerely commit myself to you. I embrace your forgiveness! How much I need it!

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 hear the Savior say,
 “Thy strength indeed is small,
 Child of weakness, watch and pray,
 Find in Me thine all in all.”
 Jesus paid it all,
 All to Him I owe;
 Sin had left a crimson stain,
 He washed it white as snow.

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

HIS WORD

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law **15** came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, ²“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!” ³Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses his father and mother must be put to death.’ ⁵But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,’ he is not to ‘honor his father’ with it. Thus you nullify the

word of God for the sake of your tradition.” *Matthew 15:1-6, NIV*

Read also Mark 7:1-5.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What was once a good idea when repeated becomes a custom — when repeated long enough becomes a tradition. Soon the tradition has become a law with moral overtones. It is now no longer a good idea — it is right or wrong. Dear Lord, how many such things have happened with me? It was not necessary to wash in just the way the elders prescribed. The disciples of my Lord were not eating with dirty hands, they had just not gone through the ceremony. Their hands might not have been any cleaner when they finished washing than when they first began — but wash they must or be “unclean.” Our Lord looked into the hearts of these men and saw nothing but the shell of form. All meaning has long since left. Greed and selfishness filled their lives.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Our Savior confronts these men as he does me. “Which is the most important? breaking the traditions of men or the laws of God?” Indeed in the very act of keeping tradition we can and do violate the laws of God. It is tradition to substitute public worship and study for personal worship and meditation. We know vaguely that you have said we should have a personal relationship with you and that we should learn your word so as to apply it to our lives. But tradition has subtly substituted *Bible School* for personal study and *Worship Service* for personal devotion. We have not only exchanged one for the other we have broken the commandment of God! Dear Lord, forgive us. Our traditions have cancelled out your will in our lives — forgive us!

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 close examination our Lord received from the teachers at Jerusalem — he improved by this procedure. (2) Thank you for the blunt direct answer our Lord gave these men. (3) Thank you for reminding me again of how important it is to honor our parents. (4) Thank you for this incisive reminder that one law cannot cancel out another one. (5) Thank you for the very distinction made here between the laws of men and your law. (6) Thank you for the value system implicit in these verses. (7) Thank you for the wonderful courage of my Lord in the face of the authorities from Jerusalem.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of

your tradition.” Dear Lord, how blood guilty we are in this area. It is not traditional for church members to be involved in evangelism. One elder said recently “it is not natural.” What he really meant is that it is not traditional. It is traditional to talk about it, but to do it on a one-to-one basis by the members of the body — that just does not get done. The word of God is as clear as can be that the members of the body in the first century spoke to every creature under heaven (Col. 1:23). The fundamental problem is that evangelism disturbs our comfortableness and interrupts our schedule. Dear Lord, forgive us, change us!

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Religious leaders are always full of questions — this can be both good and bad. How I need to prayerfully learn from this text: (1) Give me your wisdom in examining my motives. (2) Do I know what is tradition and what is truth? I want to. (3) “Thy word is truth” — all else is tradition — what can this mean to me in my life? (4) I do want to honor my parents — open my heart to learn how. (5) I know we have set aside your word by our traditions — how I do want your holy honesty to know just how I have done this. (6) Lord, where I have pretense and fear of men shine your light of truth.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

How difficult it is to receive rebuke — speak to me: (1) “Honor from the heart is easily known.” (2) “Men’s rules for worship are nothing.” (3) “Tradition has never been equal with truth and never will be.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iraq — Points for prayer: (1) *Muslims are very hard to evangelize* — just a handful are known to have believed and this is more often through hearing the Gospel while studying in other lands. For a Muslim to believe, it could mean certain death. (2) *The tragic Kurdish people*, now in the despair of defeat and oppression, have had little chance to hear of the Prince of Peace. There are virtually no believers among this 20,000,000 people scattered over Turkey, Iraq, Iran, the U.S.S.R. and Syria. One or two congregations are in Iraq. Bible translations and new initiatives to reach them with the gospel are planned.

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 ELEVEN

—Tuesday—

One day — when there is no time — we shall rejoice before you with all your angels — it is good to get in practice here. How kind you are to accept our praise!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his host!” (Psa. 148:1,2). We could never find an expression more appropriate to exemplify praise. In these verses we have entered into heaven itself and with the angels we lift our hearts in adoration. It is the expected response of all his creation. The sun, moon and stars are enlisted in one grand chorus of praise. How much more can he expect the hosts of his presence to lift up their voices in joyous songs of praise? From heaven and in heaven does praise come. It would be most enlightening to suddenly become spirit in substance and be a spectator and listener in the courts of heaven.

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

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of these verses is that you accept our praise. How full of our own ignorance and other limitations are our best efforts. But I am gloriously encouraged by these words — you *want* me to praise you and even in the attempt my expression grows. I am sure angels have ten thousand more reasons to praise you than I do. Angels can praise you with the kind of humility, reverence and purity that we could never approximate. Before the worlds were made angels were exulting in your presence. You sent them to express what all the earth should say, “Glory to God in the highest.” Three times in one verse we are exhorted to lift our hearts in praise. Indeed at least this one man does!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

If living intelligences in your presence praise you, if

not one bright spirit is exempted from this consecrated service what is my excuse for not praising you? My excuse is that I have not been motivated to do so. If the instrument of praise is worn out in the service of self-exaltation there is indeed little motivation for heaven’s praise. There *are* times — as you know better than I — when I exult in your greatness and goodness, but there are more times when I am involved in many “other things” and have no energy or interest left to express my praise. Dear Lord, what a sad sin! It is wonderfully encouraging however to know that you do not change. There is as much reason to praise you after such selfishness as there was before. Thank you for opening my eyes. Thank you for the cleansing of my record. I lift my song of gladness to you.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
 Forgive our foolish ways!
 Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
 In purer lives thy service find,
 In deeper rev’rence, praise.

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

HIS WORD

⁷“You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

⁸“ These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

⁹They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”

¹⁰Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. ¹¹What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean,’ but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him ‘unclean.’” —*Matthew 15:7-11, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I want to listen as the disciples — and also the Pharisees. Were the disciples shocked at these burning words: “*You hypocrites!*” What was the reaction of those to whom these words were spoken? I gladly ask you, dear Lord, to search my heart and tell me that I do not at all measure up to the standard I profess. I say one thing and do another in several areas of my life. Dear Lord, my heart *is not* far from you, but my conduct does so surely need improvement. More and more I want my heart and life to match the words of my mouth. Could my worship be in vain? When directed by pride I know it is!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I do take as seriously as I can this effort to let your word have free course in my heart. How many of my teachings are made by man and are taught as if they came from you? How interested am I in the externals as compared with the condition of the heart? How much of what I say is said to be seen and heard by men and not of yourself? These are hard words — who can hear them? Dear Lord, I can! The Pharisees were offended when first these words were spoken; do they offend me? No, no! I *want* to hear them — I *need* them. It is what comes out of my mouth that makes me clean or unclean. But the mouth is but the spigot of the heart. How I do want to guard my heart.

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 Isaiah’s prophecy — it has found more than one fulfillment. (2) Thank you for the wonderful courage and humility of my Lord. (3) Thank you that none of us need think of someone else to whom these words apply. (4) Thank you that I can honor you with both my lips and my heart. (5) Thank you that my worship can be genuine or a fake — dear Lord, *I* make the choice. (6) Thank you that Jesus addressed his words to “the crowd”; I can be one of them. (7) Thank you I can and do understand.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean,’ but what comes out of his mouth that is what makes him ‘unclean.’*” The uncleanness must be defined. Strange to say in both cases it is the same. It is moral uncleanness that is under consideration. Our Lord wants to identify the contaminant. It definitely is not food eaten with hands that are not washed in a particular manner. What we put into the heart is what defiles as it comes out of the mouth. Our Lord *does* say that a man can be defiled. Jesus

said, “Here are the things that defile: (1) evil ideas, (2) murder, (3) adultery, (4) sexual immorality, (5) theft, (6) lying, (7) slander.” We need to examine each of these carefully. If we do not put the motivations for such actions in our hearts they will not come out of our lives.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What a negative section we have under consideration in these words! There are many negative experiences of life — they should lead us to prayer: (1) Give me the wisdom to be able to apply scripture to life, even as my Lord. (2) How deceptively easy it is to say one thing and do another — deliver me. (3) “The heart” is the mind, will, emotions and conscience — these must all honor our Lord. (4) Vain worship consists of teaching as well as expressions — I am glad to so consider my teaching. (5) Physical defilement and heart defilement are here separated by our Lord — help me to keep my priorities straight here. (6) Jesus was not worried about the truth offending religious leaders. How I need his help here.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak as directly to my heart as you did to these Pharisees: (1) “*You can* honor me with both your heart and your lips.” (2) *You can* teach my word and worship me in truth.” (3) “*You can* keep your heart clean.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iraq — Point for prayer: *The national believers are very few.* They are mostly from a nominal Christian background. There are a few church fellowships in Baghdad and Basra but there is little witness elsewhere. Quite a few believers are not linked with any fellowship. New converts are being added to the church despite the harsh and repressive conditions in the country. Pray that the believers may have courage to stand for the Lord and continue to witness. Many believers emigrate to other lands.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Saviour;
Standing, standing,
I’m standing on the promises of God.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Wednesday—

We could sing a new song of praise every day of every year — I want to see the new blessings you have prepared for this day. How subtle — and yet how real are all your gifts to us. Gladly I worship you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful!” (Psa. 149:1). In this one beautiful verse I want to lift my heart with the psalmist in praise to you just for yourself. In the past several months we have read through every verse of every psalm. In each verse we looked for qualities of yourself for which we could lift our minds in praise. In this verse it is enough to begin our praise just because this is our first response to your presence. What a wonderful “new song” we could sing every day to you! There has never been a day just like this one. There will never be so many new and different blessings that you have prepared just for today! Were the whole family to gather in one place we could unitedly and individually lift our hearts in praise to you.

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

What a source of refreshment is your presence! It is natural to praise your name. The more I know of you as I read your word the more I want to lift my voice in adoration. It will be my joy to sing a new song each day of my life. Just for today I want to sing a new song of your subtle interest and love in my life. How true it is that we “live by faith.” All your blessings (or at least most of them) are given in such a manner that if we want to we could call them “good luck.” Right here I want to sing the new song of recognition of the source of every good and perfect gift. What a fresh new meaning do the songs in the public assembly have because of this personal praise.

How do you personally relate to the new song of God, and God who gives us a new song?

CONFESSION OF SIN

How often am I blind! How often am I deaf! How

often have I looked at life as a dull dead routine with no change of meaning? When I live for myself such is the inevitable result. If I am not expecting something new and different, if I am already convinced there is nothing new I shall never find it. I need to wake up! No blade of grass is today what it was yesterday. No need of my loved ones is today just what it was yesterday. I have not been forgiven before of the sins for which I now ask forgiveness. It is in being like your dear Son I find the newest of all new songs! “He came not to be ministered unto.” It was in serving he found meaningful variety. Forgive me for being bored when I know the cause of it — *pure selfishness!*

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 am Thine, O Lord,
I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

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

HIS WORD

¹²Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?”

¹³He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.” —Matthew 15:12-14, NIV

Read also Mark 7:9-13.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is very helpful to me to approximate your position as I read these words. The disciples were worried about their master. It would seem they were concerned that he be discredited in the halls of scholarship. They were also worried that he would lose entirely the support of these very influential men. It could be they themselves were shocked by our Lord's blunt words. If they were bothered by his rejection of Jewish tradition they are going to be totally nonplused by these words of condemnation. Is Jesus talking about the teachings or the teachers when he talks about the tree that is to be rooted up? No matter — to lose one is to lose both. Is Jesus saying there are some people who are incurably blind? So it would seem — what an awful thing to contemplate!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

"They are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit." *What a warning!* Those who follow false teaching are also responsible. Since the tree discussed is the teaching of our Lord versus the teaching of the Pharisees, so the sight or blindness relates to the light or darkness obtained by true or false teaching. How careful I want to be to treasure in my heart the very words of my Lord. How earnestly I want to study all you have said and be sure my students are confronted with what you have said — and not what I or anyone else has said. Only when we read and understand for ourselves what you have said can we trust the words of anyone else.

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 self-confidence of my Lord — he knew who he was and what he believed. (2) Thank you that Jesus was not worried about what religious leaders thought about him. (3) Thank you for the concern of the disciples for their master — even though misplaced it was concern. (4) Thank you that you are planting in the field of this world. (5) Thank you that we can be your plants. (6) Thank you for the warning that some men are willfully blind. (7) Thank you for the sober warning that there is a pit at the end of some paths.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit." This assumes that both men are responsible for their blindness. In the case cited it would be easy to define responsibility — at least with the Pharisees. These men had been following Jesus for at least two years, perhaps more. They had listened to his teaching, had watched his miracles. If they could not

accept his messiahship it was because they were willfully blind. Such a statement says so much as to the expectations of our Lord as related to students or followers. Jesus expected these persons to evaluate the life and teachings of the Pharisees and reject them as blind guides.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Our Lord was severe with hypocrites — he used such terms as "blind" and "weeds." Lord, is it I? (1) In each decision of service may I examine my motive and honestly answer who is served — your word or the traditions of men? (2) Have I tried to avoid the application of your word to my life that I might satisfy my greed? Search my heart! (3) There are times when we should leave people alone and move to someone who will listen — give me your grace in knowing when this is true. (4) How terrible to consider the possibility of being spiritually blind — even worse to lead others to destruction — direct my praying and watching. (5) Jesus wanted the crowd to learn this lesson — he surely intends that I understand — give me your wisdom.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Since we are religious leaders today we expect you to speak very personally to us in these verses: (1) "You can be my plant." (2) "You can have your eyes open." (3) "You can lead others to heaven or hell."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iraq — Point for prayer: The believers are constantly under pressure from the authorities and it is dangerous for them to have contacts with foreigners. Pray that their testimony before the Muslim authorities may recommend the Gospel of Christ.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

To God be the glory — great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the Lifegate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory — great things He hath done.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Thursday—

Out of what poor material have you made us — common clay — Zion is our mother and we are her sons. We dance to the tune of musical instruments in our response to such amazing goodness!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Let Israel be glad in his Maker, let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King! Let them praise his name with dancing, let them sing praises to him with timbrel and lyre” (Psa. 149:2,3). What interesting qualities of yourself I see in these two verses: (1) You are the *Maker of Israel*. Israel should be happy over this fact. It was out of Jacob that Israel was made. Such unworthy material from which to make a great nation. A large degree of humility — even tears of gratitude must mingle with the joy of Israel. (2) The “sons of Zion” are to rejoice in their King! *Maker and King* what wondrous qualities! (3) The exuberance and delight we have in you can be and should be expressed in dancing and musical instruments. The Hebrew culture is a real part of this expression, but back of it is the total joy of man in you.

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

You have made my body with all its desires for yourself. You have left me totally free as to whether I will respond to your purpose. I know that once I am willing to respond to you as *Maker and King* I will have no problem with false motives for joy. How I do want to pause long enough before your throne and word to encompass the meaning of your creative power and interest. The potter has a purpose or design in mind before he approaches the clay. The king does not take the throne for no reason. In both relationships it is for our highest good. If I could only look behind what you have made and understand the purpose of your rule I am sure I would be so glad and full of joy I would dance and share in the timbrel and lyre. Praise your holy name!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

It does not even occur to us that there could be or should be such joy in your purpose for our lives. But there is! Man has a tremendous capacity for the expression of emotion — he is going to use it somewhere. The excess of praise and music before the altars of Baal can only be guessed at. The total abandonment of immense crowds to music or sports need not be imagined — we can view it on our TV screens. If we understand what we are doing in public because we have spent time with you in private our joy and praise and music would be a beautiful expression of worship. It is in this that we sin. Oh, that I might open my whole self to you in this closet of prayer. I want to meditate on your word. I want to absorb the eternal truth that you are love and you want me to be supremely happy in my service to you.

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

Faith is the victory!
Faith is the victory!
Oh, glorious victory,
That overcomes the world.

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

HIS WORD

⁹And he said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and ‘Anyone that curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ ¹¹But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban’ (that is, a gift devoted to God), ¹²then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. ¹³Thus you nullify the word of God by your

tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." —Mark 7:9-13, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I do so want to digest the real indepth meaning of these verses. The irony of my Lord is particularly biting here. Jesus called their efforts to evade responsibility as "clever," or "ingenious," or "how well," or "wonderful to see" or "full well." What seemed such an accomplishment to man was only a transparent facade to our Lord. How does he see some of my efforts to evade what he has said? Jesus knew the lie behind their pious words. When they said they had given their money to God and his service what they really meant was that they had put their money into the temple treasury that was under their control. They could get interest on their investment if it was "Corban," i.e., "given to God." If they gave the same money to help their parents it would be lost to the service of God.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

There is no need to attempt to justify ourselves and pull our holy robes about us as if this were for the hypocrites of Jesus' day. What indeed could have *otherwise been given* to help the poor? I can't help everyone who is hungry but I could send one package of food through those who have made the opportunity available to me. Why don't I? Is it because I prattle some expression of excuse in my part of Christian work? I can't win everyone but I can talk to and teach those who live in the same city block as I do. Why don't I? I am too busy with "other things" that the *one* thing that needs to be done is not done. How indeed refined is our hypocrisy! Dear Lord, forgive us!

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 clear priority of your commandments over *anything* that interferes. (2) Thank you for reminding me that it is very possible today to repeat the sin of these men. (3) Thank you that Moses said and meant to "honor your father and mother." (4) Thank you we can fulfill this command gladly *right now*. (5) Thank you for the severe penalty attached to disobedience. (6) Thank you that we can give something to you — even ourselves. (7) Thank you that we are here alerted to be always careful that we allow your word to have free course in our lives and not be nullified by our traditions.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Thus you nullify the word of God by your traditions

that you have handed down." How often do we do the very same thing! In one area we are particularly guilty: Personal Devotion. It is not the custom of the average middle-class (or any other class) American to have a particular time set aside for personal worship. Perhaps this custom was more prevalent a generation ago. Today it is non-existent. I am staying with very faithful church members, but they like so many more of the people with whom I stay have *no* time of personal devotion. Does the word of God teach this or not? Is the example of my Lord and the apostle Paul clear? We have nullified the words of God with the habitual practices of those who have handed them down to us by example. God forgive us!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

We can almost hear the irony in these words of our Lord. If we have it in our heart they can lead us to prayer: (1) Jesus is aroused to the point of condemnation — why? I can expect the same attitude for the same sin — guard my heart. (2) Honoring our parents includes spending our money — i.e., according to Jesus — am I doing this? (3) Bad-mouthing our parents could end us up in hell! Does Jesus say this law applied only to the persons who deserved praise? Open my eyes! (4) A gift to you could be the care we give to our parents — I want to give it! (5) Jesus *did not* recognize the writings of men as authoritative — deliver me from the temptation to do so.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

You have surely spoken to me in these verses — speak to me again: (1) "You *can* give to support your parents." (2) "You *can* praise your parents to other people." (3) "You *can* respect and accept only my words as authoritative."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iraq — Points for prayer: (1) *Pray that the way may be opened for Jordanian and Lebanese believers to enter for witness into this land, for they would be less under suspicion.* (2) *The entry of literature has been difficult, but since the Lebanese Civil War much more literature has been entering the country legally from Jordan. Pray for the wise and careful distribution of this literature. There are several Christian bookrooms operating in the country.*

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Christ has for sin atonement made,
What a wonderful Savior!

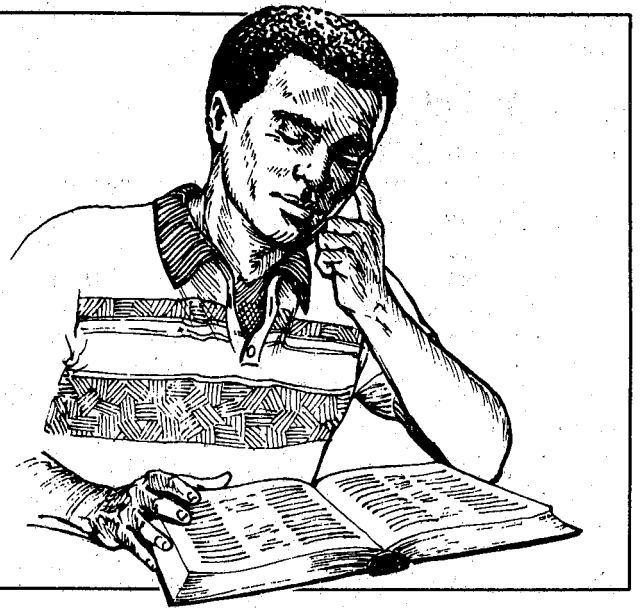
We are redeemed! the price is paid!
What a wonderful Savior!

What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Jesus!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!

WEEK ELEVEN

—Friday—

We worship One who hurts when we hurt — is happy when we are. Takes delight in giving us what we do not deserve. “. . . adorns the humble with victory.”



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory” (Psa. 149:4). It is in praise and worship before your throne I find my highest joy and deepest satisfaction. The two attributes of yourself seen here are so much needed. (1) You have a personal interest in all of our lives; what pleases us is a source of pleasure for you, i.e. as we choose within your will. As a father sees with pleasure the maturing and service of his children so you do with us. It is so good to talk with Someone who has a real personal interest in all of our life. (2) What a charming expression are these words: “He adorns the humble with victory.” When shall we remember the conditions of triumph? Humility is not something we put on — it is something we are.

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

In the very attitude of humility is true beauty. Dear Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief. In lowliness of mind there is exaltation by yourself. In service to others is the highest position. In willingness to suffer without complaint is an example that will be admired by angels — if not by men. If we are genuinely humble all such victory will come as a surprise. I am not humble *in order to be exalted* — this is but another form of pride and self-interest. I can and do choose to be humble minded and claim your promise of victory, but allow you to choose just how it shall be done. How I do praise you for the means you have to accomplish your purposes in my life!

How do you personally relate to the pleasure of God, and God who takes an interest in us? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

If there is *one* area where I feel less prepared to serve

you or worship you it is in humility. I *know* you take great pleasure in a meek and quiet spirit — I am anything but meek or quiet. There are times when I am surely the very opposite. At the same time I am glad to know you have ways of producing this lacking quality. This is part of your *pleasure* in your people. This indeed must be your largest joy. However, if when you set up the conditions out of which humility could come I rebel and refuse to respond your whole effort of love was for naught. Forgive me.

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'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining ev'ry day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
“Lord plant my feet on higher ground.”

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

HIS WORD

²²The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone.

²³Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

²⁶Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.

On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

²⁸Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"²⁹Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"³¹Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "

³²Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you true bread from heaven.

³³For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴"Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

—John 6:22-34, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

There surely is much to learn and apply in these verses. I want first of all to understand them. Dear Lord, open my understanding! John tells us of the crowds' knowledge of the appearance of Jesus on the other side of the lake without having used a boat. He does not say just what their reaction was to this amazing fact. Meanwhile on the other side of the lake the crowds were waking to the fact that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples. Since they evidently knew Jesus had not sailed away with his disciples when they arrived on the other side of the lake they were very curious as to just how Jesus got there. Jesus *did not* tell them. He did speak to their heart need of real faith.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How much of my faith relates to the temporal blessings of life? How small was the faith of this crowd! There is such a lesson in this record for today! "Faith comes by hearing" — *not by seeing* — however sensational the sight might be. Faith comes by hearing from or of the Word of the Lord. Only when we accept the authority or truthfulness of the one speaking will we have faith. Faith formed by miracles passes with the sensation of the miracle performed. When the mind is not informed and enlightened the reason for belief is just not there.

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 evidence of the supernatural in the life of our Lord. (2) Thank you that Jesus did not emphasize such evidence. (3) Thank you our Lord was not hesitant about speaking to the needs of the people. (4) Thank you for the eternal life I can enjoy from the Son of Man. (5) Thank you for the most convincing seal of approval placed upon my Lord from yourself. (6) Thank you for the "Work of

God" which amounts to doing what God has said. (7) Thank you for the true bread from heaven from which I have life.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." Amen! He surely gives life to my world. How wonderful to be able to pause amid the busy rush of life and recognize that all the life we have is from him! This bread from God could be as easily misunderstood or neglected as the manna in the wilderness. (1) That manna only lasted one day. If Jesus is to give me life it will be for one day at a time. (2) I must gather it for myself — it is my own effort that appropriates what is on the ground into the energy I need. (3) It seems significant that those who gathered must kneel to do so.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

There is so much here of intense interest we will have a problem deciding what to emphasize in our praying: (1) The crowd was in search of Jesus — not for worship but for their own interests. What is my real purpose in seeking him? (2) Jesus never answered their question as to how he crossed the lake — I wonder why he didn't? Some questions do not deserve an answer — give me grace to know which are which. (3) Jesus read their motives — he knows mine too — speak to me through these words that I might be totally sincere. (4) Oh, Son of Man — give me yourself that I might eat and live forever! (5) I want to hear and read again your "seal of approval" you gave to your Son.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Burn these words into my inmost being! (1) "The work of God is this: to believe in the One he has sent." (2) ". . . the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iraq — Point for prayer: Christian radio broadcasts and follow-up correspondence courses remain virtually the only avenue for getting the Gospel to these needy people. Pray for the Arabic broadcasts.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Wounded for me, wounded for me,
There on the cross He was wounded for me;
Gone my transgression, and now I am free,
All because Jesus was wounded for me.

WEEK ELEVEN

—Saturday—

How much more meaning we can give to our "grace" before meals if we review each day the qualities of yourself for which we praise you! Give me that bread that came down from heaven!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches" (Psa. 149:5). My purpose is to hold up before you a quality of yourself for which I can praise you. I take the word "glory" to refer to your essential essence or being. To exult in glory is to adore or praise your total character. David is saying that the faithful should reiterate all the attributes of yourself and lift their voices up in praise. It would be most instructive to review all the qualities of yourself I have considered throughout this whole year. I want to multiply these tenfold.

Speak audibly or write out your praise in your own devotional journal.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Since the Hebrews were accustomed to reclining when eating as well as sleeping it is a little difficult to tell if I am to think of the meal or the bed. I shall think of both. Dear Lord, enlarge my vocabulary and thought as I sit down to the table and attempt to thank you for the food. I want my expressions to be full of thought as well as praise. Give me wisdom in fulfilling this desire. At the same time it is when I retire and relax at night I need a fulfillment of these words. It is such a blessing to retire in a song of praise or in reading from your word. Sleep is so much sweeter and refreshing when you are in it.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

As you know my heart it is no problem for me to lift my heart in adoration for the qualities of yourself I see in your word. I can easily join with the faithful in exalting your divine Person. It is in the application of this capacity beyond this closet of prayer that I confess my sin and need. It is on the couch of eating and sleeping I need your help. I truly purpose to remedy

this need! I plan on writing out some much more meaningful prayers at meals — some words of exulting praise for the bounties of your goodness. I shall also prepare some songs of praise I can sing before I retire. Dear Lord, reinforce these commitments and confession of need.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

I was lost, but Jesus found me,
Found the sheep that went astray,
Threw his loving arms around me,
Drew me back into His way.
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

³⁴"Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."
³⁵Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶But as I told you, you have seen me and still do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up in the last day. ⁴⁰For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." — *John 6:34-40, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How typical is the reaction of these men to all men

who come into superficial contact with our Lord. The crowd asks for a rain of bread from heaven. Jesus offers himself! Not only are they asking for a repeat performance of the manna from heaven, they want it to keep raining such bread. Is Jesus' offer really practical? Can he really satisfy as bread and water meet the needs of the body? Unless we are prepared to say that the needs of the heart are not that important we must say indeed he does become our bread and water. The key to making such provisions ours is in the little words: "come" and "believe." When we come truly hungry and thirsty to him and believe (which necessarily includes obedience) we are indeed filled!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I believe the marvelous means of coming to you is my own willingness. I believe also that this is true for all who come to you. How hesitantly and fearfully we often come to you — but the sweet words of my Lord calm my fears and charm my heart: "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away." Was there a conflict in the heart of my Lord? i.e. did he have a struggle with "his will" as versus "the will" of the Father? *Of course* he did or he would be no example for me. How are we given to the Father? We all can answer this question — it was in a set of circumstances in which we were very much a part that we decided to commit ourselves to his love. What gave us to the Father keeps us in the Father's care — our willingness. Bless your wonderful name!

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 plain powerful promise of the resurrection on the last day. (2) Thank you for a promise I will enjoy forever — "eternal life." (3) Thank you that you will lose none who want to be saved. (4) Thank you that my Lord "learned obedience" so well — I can too! (5) Thank you for the plain statement of my Lord's origin — "I am come down from heaven." (6) Thank you that my Lord does not consider my worthiness as a reason for accepting me. (7) Thank you that I need not go through this day as hungry or thirsty.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... Everyone who looks upon the Son and puts his faith in him shall possess eternal life; and I will raise him up on the last day" (NEB). What an audacious statement to make! Jesus was very conscious of who he was. To include the whole human race in a promise is an incredible claim. But to include *eternal life* in the promise is beyond human comprehension. To top off these words is the assertion that he has control

of death and the grave! We need to reread the conditions imposed for the fulfillment of these promises. "He who looks upon the Son and puts his trust in him." What do we seek as we look? Just what is included in the term "trust"? Faith and obedience are the two words that describe our response. What an amazing Savior is Jesus our Lord!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these beautiful words on the bread of life we can find many requests for prayer: (1) I know for what I am asking and I say like the crowd by the lake: "Lord . . . from now on give me this bread." (2) I know also the verb tense in "coming" to my Lord is a continuing action — I do indeed want to do this. (3) What a wonderful promise is here: ". . . will never go hungry." I claim the conditions and the promise. (4) I also know just what is involved in believing: *obedience*. This is much better than the thirst. I believe, help my unbelief. (5) I see in my Lord such an example of faith and obedience — strengthen my stumbling steps!

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I do want to hear and believe: (1) "All that the Father gives me will come to me. This means you." (2) ". . . whoever comes to me I will never drive away." (3) ". . . I shall lose none of all that he has given me."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Jordan — Population: 3,600,000. Growth rate — 3.8%. Points for prayer: (1) *The long-lasting Middle East Crisis* has brought many years of suffering to Jordan. This has made many nominal Christians and Muslims more open to the Gospel. Pray for a great harvest to be reaped for God in this land. (2) *Many areas are inadequately evangelized* — to mention several: the south of the country, the nomadic Bedouin and the refugee camps.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne,
And thus surround the throne.
We're marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion,
the beautiful city of God.