

WEEK TWELVE

—Sunday—

The joy we have in yourself is our strength for living — Your word in our hands and our hearts is our strong defence. How abundant is your provision for us.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands” (Psa. 149:6). I realize this had reference to the conquests of David as he extended his kingdom. However, there is a sense in which we can see ourselves in this verse: for every Christian we can think of no better approach to the conquest of life: praise in our mouths and the word of God in our hands. The very best praise we can give must be directed toward the One for whom it is due. Our praises are also high as to purpose inasmuch as all the wonders and beauties of heaven are our goal. How meaningful is the description of your word. The whole instrument is an edge. Such a weapon however is of no value until it is taken into the conflict and used.

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

Dear Lord, this verse does describe my purpose in life. My praise will really never be high enough for all you are. However, I am going to try. I am not referring to volume. All I see in your Son — all that he says to me in his word — all of your glory I see reflected in the lives of your children will be the source of my praises to you. Most of all I want my own life to be an expression of praise. Your sword is only a decoration on the shelf until it is thrust into the battle of life. How sharp and effective do I find it in every conflict. I purpose even now to use your sword where I have been fighting with the crooked sticks of men.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

How often in the midst of the battle has the cry of

high praise been heard? Not nearly often enough! How can I make very practical personal application of this lovely verse? I think of the relationships of my life I know will face me this day. How shall I come to them? *“Let the high praises of God be in my mouth and your two-edged sword in my hand.”* I do not speak of carrying a copy of the Bible. I want your word in my heart so I can use it in the conflict. Such are my goals — such have been my goals for some time. Forgive me for not reaching them. But I do press on. Even as I do I trust in your forgiveness. I bow my head in defeat when I should lift it in praise. 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

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

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

HIS WORD

⁴¹At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, *“I am the bread that came down from heaven.”* ⁴²They said, *“Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven?’”* ⁴³*“Stop grumbling among yourselves,”* Jesus answered. ⁴⁴*“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”* ⁴⁵*It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’* Everyone who

listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. ⁴⁶No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. ⁵⁰But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If a man eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." — *John 6:41-51, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Shall we be like the religious leaders who first heard these words? The muttering and murmuring among these men was not because they did not understand but because they did not believe! Had anyone of these men really bothered to investigate just what kind of a life this Jesus of Nazareth lived at home in Nazareth? We doubt it. Had even one of them asked his mother or his so-called "father" Joseph what kind of a person he was? Maybe they had and had already rejected out of hand the claim of his virgin birth. We are face to face with the same decision today!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The rebuke of our Lord is well deserved! He is saying, "If you do not want to believe you will not believe." There is something about belief beyond human effort. We believe the Father supplies all the evidence in the life and miracles of his Son and through these means draws men to himself, but after all the evidence is in it is *still the decision of man to accept or reject*. If we do not want to be drawn to the Father through the Son no amount of reason will avail. It was so with these men and it is so today. Dear Lord, I want to come to you — I *want* to believe — I am *glad* to accept you. I am like one of the poorest of those you healed and helped. Glory to God in the highest!

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 that we all can be indeed "taught of God." (2) Thank you that I confidently can expect Jesus to get me out of the grave. (3) Thank you I can listen to you through your word and come to your Son. (4) Thank you that one day we shall all see him even as he is! (5) Thank you I can believe and right now claim "everlasting life." (6) Thank you that I can keep on eating of the bread come down from heaven and can keep on having life. (7) Thank you for the flesh of my Lord offered on the cross for the life of the world.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." Isn't it amazing that this whole beautiful discourse on "the bread from heaven" came out of a chance remark about the miracle of manna in the days of Moses. Of course it really wasn't just "a chance" remark, it was like all the work and teaching of our Lord: He came to show that always in the midst of the "hustle bustle" of life you are at work. Nothing happens by accident, all happens by intent. Our Lord's offering on the cross is the real "bread come down from heaven to give life for the whole world!" As the grain is broken and refined for use as flour so was the body of our Lord. As bread is essential and available to all men so is his offering on Calvary.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Grumbling is such a common trait — when related to our Lord we can be sure it comes from the evil one — guard my heart: (1) How slow to believe were those who should have known him best! By his definition of faith am I any better? (2) "Stop your grumbling among yourselves." These are the words of my Lord — help me to hear them. (3) We won't believe unless we want to — such "want to" comes from us *and* yourself. I praise you for so drawing me to yourself. (4) May I abide in your word and your word abide in me that my "want to" will be strong. (5) Jesus repeatedly promised eternal life — to raise our bodies on the last day. Considering his life teaching and works and his death in my place I have good reasons for saying: "Amen."

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Open my heart to receive your word! (1) "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." (2) "Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me." (3) "I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Jordan — Point for prayer: There has been much Christian work on the West Bank among the Arabs. Some of this work continues under the Israeli occupation. Pray that there may be fruit for the Lord despite the tense political situation and the rising influence of the Communists among the Arabs.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

WEEK TWELVE

—Monday—

We are your sanctuary — what an awesome thought! There is indeed a “mighty firmament” — or open space above us! For both relationships we can be full of praise!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!” (Psa. 150:1). It would be easy to say “Praise the Lord” inside, i.e. when we assemble to worship, and praise the Lord when we are outside looking up into the heavens he has created. Man himself is your sanctuary. No room in which we gather is properly called a sanctuary. We are your house; our bodies are the dwelling place of yourself in the Spirit. In a sense the words of Paul apply to us. “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and that temple you are.” Collectively as here in I Cor. 3:16,17 and individually as in I Cor. 6:19,20 we praise you in your sanctuary.

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 want to step outside and look up into the canopy of space. Your everlasting power and great wisdom will immediately be seen. In our day like no other we can relate to the words of the psalmist. As we look at the pictures returned from the Voyager II showing us close-up shots of the planets let us not forget that we are not looking at stars but just the closest and smallest of your creation in the firmament. How totally amazing is the power and majesty in the expanse of the heavens! Praise leaps to our lips as an almost involuntary response of what we see. “Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament.”

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

When I assemble with others and thus make up your

sanctuary is praise the first and last thought that fills my mind? Such could be and should be. I have so much for which I can praise you. However, I am free to confess there are many other things that take precedence. We are so occupied with greeting one another and visiting about this and that we sometimes even sing the songs with thoughts of other matters filling our minds while the words fill our mouths. I can go out into your beautiful world with my head down and really never look up to see your mighty firmament.

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
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

⁵²Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

⁵³Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven. Our forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. ⁶⁰On hearing it, many of the disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

⁶¹Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²What if

you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. ⁶⁴Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

⁶⁶From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

⁶⁷"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

⁷⁰Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" ⁷¹(He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.) —*John 6:52-71, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It would seem it was very important for our Lord to emphasize his body as bread and his blood as drink. He said it six times from verse 53 to 58. Your Son knew these men did not understand, more than that he knew they did not want to understand. How very important it is that we understand his death.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I want to answer the Jews' question "How can this man give us his flesh to eat." I only ask them to stand beneath the cross and contemplate what is happening there. We need to read again and again the words the Holy Spirit gave to the apostles and prophets who wrote of his death. It is only in a daily meditation on his death and suffering that we "eat his flesh and drink his blood." We can do this each week as we gather around his table.

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 exclusive blunt words: "Except you eat the flesh and drink the blood you have no life." (2) Thank you we understand how to eat and drink of him. (3) Thank you for the wonderful satisfaction we find in eating his flesh and drinking his blood. (4) Thank you that he abides in us as we eat — this is a continual practice and presence. (5) Thank you that Jesus said so clearly that our only source of life is himself. (6) Thank you that Jesus did not accommodate himself or his teaching to the unbelief or ignorance of men. (7) Thank you for the wonderful words of Peter: "You have the words of eternal life."

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" What did Jesus mean by this enigmatic statement? John gives us the meaning. Did Jesus know Judas would betray him even before he chose him? A better question would be "Why did Judas betray him even if Jesus did know it?" Our Lord's knowledge of Judas' actions had nothing to do with the moral responsibility of the betrayer. We as parents can predicate some of the actions of our children, but our foreknowledge does not lessen their responsibility. Judas is representative of the first angel who sinned and the first man who sinned. Why? Why? In the wonder and purity of heaven and Eden why would they sin? In the presence of the Son of God why betray him? The answer is as simple as it is profound: because they could! Dear Lord, I want to choose not to!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In this teaching of my Lord on the bread of life I find prayer needs I *must* bring to you: (1) I do want to eat and live forever — teach me just how I can do it. (2) I see my Savior's broken body as "the bread" from which my spirit must find nourishment for eternal life. (3) Jesus speaks to me in this figure of speech in such a sharp manner. My appreciation of what he did for me on Calvary must be as real as food and drink — make it so! (4) Since my eternal life depends on "eating and drinking" what happened at the cross, I better spend much more time beneath the cross of Jesus. (5) These words separated many of his disciples from him. I want them to draw me to you.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I want to hear you speak to me in my inner ear: (1) "The spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing." (2) "The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are life." (3) "Eat and drink and live forever."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Jordan — Point for prayer: The Palestinian Refugees are embittered by their years of fruitless struggle to regain their lands in Israel. Some have been absorbed into the economic life of Jordan, but others live in refugee camps financed by the United Nations. Jordanian Christians are free to distribute literature and witness in these camps, and some do, but this can be dangerous.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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!

WEEK TWELVE

—Tuesday—

We are full of wonder as we consider your mighty deeds! To save Noah and his family from the flood. To confuse the tongues of men. Most of all to save us out of your mercy.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his exceeding greatness” (Psa. 150:2). How easy it will be to fulfill this blessed verse! I do want to hold up your involvement in human affairs and praise you for this. In just the first book of your revelation to man I can praise you: (1) For your decision to flood the earth and at the same time save Noah and his family. This was a deed almost beyond human comprehension. (2) Your confusing the tongues of men at the tower of Babel tells me of your constant interest in the affairs of men. Praise your name. (3) I wonder just how your voice sounded when you called Abram from the Ur of Chaldees? (4) The wonderful land promise you repeatedly made to Abraham expresses your interest in the physical needs of man.

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 already decided to again destroy the earth and all who are in it (II Peter 3:9ff.). I thank you for the beautiful rainbow that promises you will never again destroy the earth with water. But I want to just as fully thank you that I have been warned you *will* destroy this earth with fire. (2) You have a tremendous interest in the tongue of man, i.e. all languages. It would seem your largest interest is in some written form of language. How glad I am to share this interest. (3) I do believe in ways we do not always understand you are calling men (and women) out of their own country into a land you have prepared for them.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

It isn't that I fail to praise you for your mighty deeds,

it is only that I am so much more occupied with my own activities that I fail to relate them to what you have done and are doing in my life. Somehow I want to live in a constant biblical context. A meditation on your word night and day would be essentially a meditation on your mighty deeds. To take the time to hear your voice through the pages of your book is to see again and again your exceeding greatness. For failure in this very important area of life I ask your forgiveness. It is good to label or name other sins which I gladly do, but it is better to work on the cause. Meditation on your mighty deeds and exceeding greatness will deliver me from my own feeble efforts and smallness.

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 stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.
How marvelous! how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! how wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me!

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

HIS WORD

²¹Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²²A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession.” *Matthew 15:21,22, NIV*

²⁴Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. ²⁵In fact,

as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. ²⁶The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. — *Mark 7:24-26, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It was quite a journey to walk from the Sea of Galilee up to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Why did Jesus go here? It seems clear that he and the apostles were seeking rest and seclusion. Mark says “. . . he went into a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. . . .” My Lord needed a time and place for reorientation. Such being so it should come as no surprise that I need such a time even more often than my Lord. It should also come as no surprise that he could not find such a place — not even outside the borders of Israel! There was someone present who had such a pressing need that it could not be hidden any more than our Lord.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

When I feel taxed and pressed — when I imagine that I could not teach one more lesson or prepare one more sermon, dear Lord, may I remember your Son who came not to be ministered unto but to give his life. Indeed he did! He gave himself in healing (and there was a real loss of energy in this), in teaching — I know what a loss there is in such effort — in reading the hearts of people and relating their needs to his Father in prayer. I can only imagine how this must have taxed him. Why have I come to the service of my Lord? Is it not to follow him? I am not prepared to identify the presence of demons in people — but I can see very plainly the tragic effects of Satan in the lives of people all about me. Will I hear their cry? Will I answer their need?

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 humanness of your Son — he needed to rest. (2) Thank you for the fact that crowds were not the whole purpose of my Lord's work. (3) Thank you that Jesus teaches us very plainly here that his primary work was discipling, not healing. (4) Thank you for this unusual woman — full of daring faith. (5) Thank you for this clear statement of the objective presence of demons. (6) Thank you that we can learn that sin and evil *are not* necessarily associated as a cause for the presence of demons. (7) Thank you for the worship and prayer of the woman in the presence of our Lord — I want to kneel with her!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her

daughter.” Where did this woman obtain such faith in our Lord? “Faith comes by hearing” — she no doubt had been told by some of those who had seen and heard him. The report of our Lord's miracles must have been very common knowledge. But there was something special about this woman. Her persistence and humility are evident. But it was her daughter's desperate condition that consumed her whole person. She must have known enough not only of the miracles of Jesus but also of his character to know that Jesus would listen to her need. Both she and the daughter seemed to be powerless in the presence of the demon. What an example this dear woman has become for a multitude of people down through the centuries.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the entreaties of this Canaanite woman we can learn how to pray: (1) My Lord wanted and needed a place to rest and pray — help me to find such a place. (2) It would seem to all too many your presence is a secret — I want you to be the most conspicuous person in my life. (3) May my inner spirit-needs be as urgent as was the physical/spiritual need of this woman. (4) May I in truth — not just word — fall at your feet in worship and prayer. (5) Lord, you know how unworthy any one of us is to appear before you — have mercy upon me. (6) Deliver me from the evil one.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Since my Lord saw such an example in this woman, I know you can speak to me in these verses: (1) “Neither I nor demons have died since this incident.” (2) “My mercy endures forever.” (3) “I honor faith and love today as then.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Jordan — Point for prayer: *The Protestant Church*. There is much nominalism among the second and third generation Christians. Yet among the Bible believing groups there is revival in some congregations and many people are being converted — especially Muslims. The most common source of new converts is from the many home fellowships where the unsaved feel more at ease. Pray that the believers may be sensitive, open and loving to those converted out of a Muslim background, for many of these converts find it hard to settle in a church fellowship.

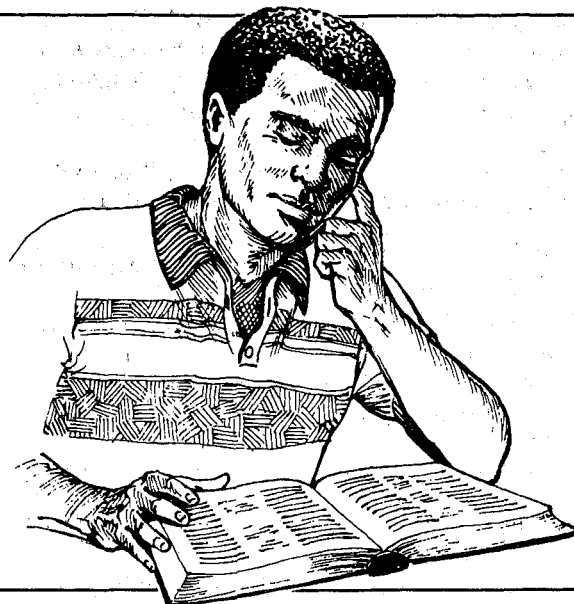
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne.

WEEK TWELVE

—Wednesday—

If musical instruments can praise you surely we can join them. Give me a deeper appreciation of the infinite variety you use in expressions of praise.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp” (Psa. 150:3). It will be a blessing to try to contemplate just how we shall praise you as indicated in this verse. The trumpets were used on occasions to call the congregation of Israel together. How we do need to lift up our voices like trumpets and let the whole world know that you are King and worthy of our worship. At times trumpets were used to sound an alarm. If ever there was a time when such a blast needs to be given it is now. The lute and harp were used in worship in the temple. Perhaps we could say that if we are occupied with singing the songs of Zion we will be prepared when Gabriel sounds the trumpet call for the King. There are so many beautiful songs of praise and I enjoy singing every one.

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

The variety involved appeals to me as expressive of the praise I can bring to you. The trumpet is for the public announcement. I do indeed want all men to know of your greatness and goodness. The lute and harp were used for smaller groups or even for private use. How glad I am to share with classes your mercy and love, and to lift my heart even now in personal praise. The variety involved in using these instruments is meaningful to me: some of them are sounded by blowing wind into them, some by touching the strings, some by beating on them. All of the instruments give the certain sound of praise to your holy name! How I do enjoy being innovative in my expression of praise to you.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

The trumpet lies unused; the lute and the harp gather

dust. So is at times the condition of my heart. I am glad to say that such is less and less frequent. At the same time I need to lift up the trumpet far more often; the joyful music of the lute and harp need to be heard every day in praise to your name. I could blame fatigue for my lack of urgency but hear Paul say to me “Be urgent in season and out of season.” My expressions might not always be as bright and clear as other times but I want to lift up praise to you in the out of season days as well as in the days when it is easy to do. I want to examine my heart and see if my fatigue is sin related. Forgive me and revive me again!

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

Come, ev'ry soul by sin oppressed,
There's mercy with the Lord,
And He will surely give you rest
By trusting in His word.
Only trust Him, only trust Him,
Only trust Him now.
He will save you, He will save you,
He will save you now.

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

HIS WORD

²³Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

²⁵The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

²⁶He replied, “It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs.”

²⁷“Yes, Lord,” she said, “but even the dogs eat the

crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

²⁸Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. —Matthew 15:23-28, NIV

²⁷"First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."

²⁸"Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

²⁹Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."

³⁰She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. —Mark 7:27-30, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I want this whole record before me so I can as much as possible absorb every word. This is a strange response from your Son. Knowing the character of our Lord we wonder all over again if he had not planned all of this. Is he trying to say something to the nation of Israel? He treats this urgent woman with the indifference the Jews gave the Gentiles to help them to see how much confidence one, who had but little opportunity, placed in him. The disciples, as usual, misread our Lord's intentions and wanted to send her away. Jesus said all the right words as he typified the Jewish attitude: "lost sheep of the house of Israel"; "dogs." The woman had an immediate appropriate answer. Dear Father, I do hope I have read this aright!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Is there something in my life that will call out such urgency as found in this woman? Do I have a need that cannot be handled by myself? These questions are all *wrong*, or at least 90% wrong. The woman's concern was *not* for herself, but for someone else. Am I as ready to receive rebuff from men — and apparently, even from my Lord, that the need of someone else might be met? To ask is to answer — I do not like the price. The problem is that I have not yet empathized with others as my Lord did — and as this pagan woman did. Dear Lord, forgive!

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 strange silence of Jesus — it says so much. (2) Thank you for the urgent persistence of this woman — how I need her consuming concern. (3) Thank you for the ironic rebuke in the statement: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." (4) Thank you for one lost sheep — not even in Israel — that wanted to be found. (5) Thank you for the test my Lord gave the woman in his words about the bread.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"And her daughter was healed from that very hour." "She went home and found her child lying on the bed and the demon gone." Would that mother ever forget that hour? She would always remember the help given to her daughter, but there was something about the man that healed her she would never forget. The physical presence of our Lord was something with which to be reckoned. The eyes of Jesus must have been wonderfully impressive. When he spoke how did his voice sound? Men and women crowd around a famous man to shake his hand. What would it have been like to shake hands with God in human form?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What a blessed example of devotion — commitment and faith. This woman surely leads me to prayer: (1) When others are quick to say no and turn away, help me to pause and hear behind the words and see beneath the obvious. (2) This woman would not be dissuaded even when Jesus defined the limitations of his ministry. She heard more than others did — she caught his attitude — I want to be like her. (3) I kneel before you even now with the same request of the woman: "Lord, help me" — (in the deep needs you know I have). (4) Is Jesus asking the woman to be classified as a "dog"? If so, she was ready. I am too — but I still need your help.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am as unworthy as this woman — but speak to me, end my need: (1) "There are no needs that cannot be met with your faith and my word." (2) "I have a whole banquet of food for your whole life." (3) "When you ask on behalf of others you help yourself first."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Jordan — Point for prayer: *Outreach by believers* has increased recently. More and more young people have been enthused and involved in door-to-door visitation and tract distribution. Pray for the right Christian leaders to be raised up who can continue to teach young believers how to reach out to others with the Gospel.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Face to face I shall behold Him,
Far beyond the starry sky;
Face to face in all His glory,
I shall see Him by and by!

WEEK TWELVE

—Thursday—

If persons in the time of David were so happy with you that they danced for joy we can do more — we have yourself in the person of your Son. Praise your name!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!” (Psa. 150:4). In this time of worship my whole purpose is to lift an attribute of yourself up as a means of praise and adoration. I want to be as objective as at all possible. It would appear that there is something in yourself that creates a joy that is best expressed in music and dancing. Why were the people of David’s day so happy? Was it because they lived in a land of freedom and plenty? Was their joy and exuberance from the forgiveness promised in the sacrifices? In all of these ways and many more we have reason to be full of joy and gladness. We sometimes become so full of happiness that physical expression seems the only natural expression. We want the music to be our voice of joy and praise. The dancing is an individual expression. We are not dancing for each other but for 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

Dear Lord, I do want to enter into this expression of praise. Do I honestly have reason to be so exceedingly happy? Indeed I do! Let me list just a few reasons for such joy: (1) All my sins are forgiven and forgotten and cannot in any way be held against me — I am totally, wholly free from guilt! I should be dancing for joy! (2) I can just as freely and fully forgive from the heart others who have sinned against me. I can and do forget what others have said or done against me. I can and do sustain the “no condemnation” attitude toward all men. Oh, what a relief! What a lightness fills my heart! (3) I have a whole new life and world prepared for me when I lay aside this worn out garment called my body. The wonder and anticipation of this adventure is surely enough to get out the timbrel or pipe!

How do you personally relate to the joy of God, and God who wants us happy?

CONFESSION OF SIN

How sad it is when there are so many reasons for praise and happiness we are complaining and griping about matters that really do not matter. Dear Lord, forgive me! Forgive me for thinking of sins when you have forgotten them. It is Satan’s delight to torment us with that which is only imaginary. If the evil one has a sense of humor this must be the expression of it. Remind me again and again that “as the Lord forgave you, so you are to forgive each other.” I really have no rights at all. I gave them up to my Lord when he bought me at Calvary. Dear Lord, keep my eyes off of that which is so near. When I fasten my attention on the problems and complexities of this life I surely do forget the life to come. I want that wonderful present transformation by the renewing of my mind!

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

“Man of Sorrows,” what a name
For the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

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

HIS WORD

³¹Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of Decapolis. ³²There some people brought a man to him who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. ³³After he took him aside, away from the the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. ³⁴He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, *Ephphatha!*” (which means, “Be opened!”) ³⁵At this,

the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. —*Mark 7:31-36, NIV*

²⁹Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up into the hills and sat down. ³⁰Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the dumb and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. ³¹The people were amazed when they saw the dumb speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel. —*Matthew 15:29-31, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I do want to walk with his disciples on the long trip from Tyre through Sidon down to the mountain near the Sea of Galilee. There were several miles and days involved in this whole episode. What did he teach them on the way? We shall really never know this side of seeing him and asking those who were with him. We are sure they will be able to remember much, i.e. considering the wonderful details both Matthew and Mark give us here. Among the many who were healed we are told of a deaf man who had an impediment to his speech. How kindly and thoughtfully does our Lord work with this man!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Why did Jesus separate this man from the multitude? Because there was a need in the man's heart that would be met by doing this. How helpful our Lord was: he gave the man a visual aid in placing his fingers in his own ears and moistening his fingers with his own saliva; and then lifting his face toward heaven in a gesture of adoration. How intently the deaf man was watching Jesus we can only imagine. Did the deaf man hear that wonderful word, "Ephphatha"? We would like to think that he did — for it was his ears that were opened — it was his tongue that was loosed!

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 great crowds who came — they could hear and be healed. (2) Thank you for the variety of sickness healed: (a) blind; (b) crippled; (c) dumb — no exceptions — *all* were healed. (3) Thank you for the spontaneous amazement of the people. (4) Thank you that we can do greater works and praise you for it. (5) Thank you that Jesus manipulated no one — all his work was spontaneous. (6) Thank you for the constant personal concern Jesus had in his ministry of healing and teaching. (7) Thank you for the overwhelming amazement of the people.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"*He has done everything well.*" What was meant here was that the miracles of Jesus were so very satisfying to everyone. There were no questions not answered, no failure to meet the needs of those present. It could have indeed applied to his whole life. He has done everything with no loose ends! How easy it is to neglect some area of our experience — but not so with Jesus! "He has done everything well" in the teaching realm. His writings through his penmen have been under scrutiny for over 1900 years and this is indeed the consensus. "He has done everything well" in the real purpose of his coming — i.e. to provide salvation for all men.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

As Jesus meets the needs of these multitudes of people I want him to meet my needs. I ask him: (1) As you looked into the heart of each man and each woman and gave them just what they needed, I believe you are doing the same today for me and all others. (2) How lame I am in areas of service — heal me — make me strong. (3) I have been so blind in several areas — you have opened my eyes — but they need to be opened again and again. (4) How feeble are our best efforts — heal this cripple in teaching and preaching and writing.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

How I do want you to open my ears and my mouth! Speak to me: (1) "I have you as much on my heart — as a separate person as I did the man in this text." (2) "I have greater works for you and through you than you read about in these texts." (3) "I can and do heal the whole person."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Jordan — Point for prayer: *Christian leadership* — mature Christian leaders are urgently needed for the many opportunities for ministry that there now are. Unfortunately too many of the best men tend to go to America.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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!

WEEK TWELVE

—Friday—

I want to praise you with no hesitation or hindrance. If you want me to use cymbals — harps — or whatever, I am glad to do it. I am so bound by tradition — help me.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!” (Psa. 150:5). Why are cymbals mentioned twice if the same instrument is intended? Dear Lord, you are the only one who truly knows what is meant. But I believe David is talking of two types of cymbals. Perhaps the first were finely tuned smaller instruments and the second were the larger ones used by both hands. There is one meaning that comes across with no hesitancy: as you want all nature to recognize its creator in its praise so you want man to employ all means available to him to praise you. It would seem here that you are saying that there are times when loud exclamations are in order. There is a time to shout for joy. There is a place for a crescendo of joy! Dear Lord, I want to sound my cymbals in your presence this very morning.

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 limited and confined to say nothing of hindered we are by convention. It is just not the right thing to do, so we do not do it. We have been reading the wrong book for conduct. Your word in describing our expressions of praise plainly recommends the use of “sounding cymbals” and “loud clashing cymbals.” Whereas this was a part of the worship in the Old Testament I see it as a good example of how we could express our joy today when our joy is commensurate to the use of these instruments. My problem is that I do not feel as exuberant as the use of these instruments would suggest. There is however a reciprocal action involved here. Perhaps if I decided to use such means of praise I could soon suit my praise to the cymbals. It is always good for me to act on my convictions and let my feelings follow.

How do you personally relate to the music of God, and God who wants our praise? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How shall I confess my failure to praise you? Is it even necessary to make such a confession? Indeed it is! It is in this area I find both my greatest blessing and my greatest sin. If I read what you have given to us aright the intelligent beings in your presence are occupied with little else than praise and adoration. This says much to me. There must be something constantly and increasingly wonderful before them or they would not so respond. No one is forcing such angels and men to praise you. Their praise is a response to the wonder and excitement that meets their eyes and ears and mind. I have a beautiful choice today: I can expose myself to your word and there find reason piled upon reason to praise you; or I can pick up a magazine or turn on the TV and turn my heart away from you. Forgive me; help 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

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount — I’m fixed upon it —
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

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

HIS WORD

³²Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.”

³³His disciples answered, “Where could we get enough

bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?"

³⁴"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked.

"Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish."

³⁵He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. ³⁶Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. ³⁷They all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ³⁸The number of those who ate was four thousand, besides women and children. —*Matthew 15:32-38, NIV*

Read also Mark 8:1-9a.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

These two accounts are so very similar that I want to consider them as one. At the same time I want to read them just as if I had never read them before. This is a crowd in which a majority could be Gentiles. It is the dry season because they are going to sit not on the grass as in the feeding of the 5,000, but on the "ground." There do indeed seem to be several reasons why my Lord repeated the astounding miracle of the creation of food: (1) It deals with the basic element of deity — *creation*. There is little point in saying the seven loaves and a few fish were increased in number — the *increase was something out of nothing!* (2) It reinforced the conviction of the apostles that he was indeed and in truth "Emmanuel."

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

As I with the disciples begin to gather the leftovers would I not be very, very thoughtful? What would I think? Perhaps: "He is always so modest and humble about all he does! He could have really made a sensation out of this meal, but now it is over — I wonder how many men in the four thousand even knew what happened? Perhaps as many as He wanted to know, i.e. those who had eyes to see and ears to hear." We could say that 1900 years this side of the incident many more than 4,000 have understood what happened. Praise your name.

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 unfailing compassion of my Lord. (2) Thank you that my heart hunger can always be satisfied by him. (3) Thank you for the challenge of no provisions — out of this can glory come to our Lord. (4) Thank you that Jesus always thanked you before he ate — what an example! (5) Thank you that in thanksgiving there is creation. (6) Thank you that we are always in the distribution business in your program of feeding this hungry world. (7) Thank you that nothing is wasted or lost when you create 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 beautifully does this phrase describe all those who will eat of the bread come down from heaven. What lessons we can learn here: (1) Our Lord alone can give us this bread. The exclusiveness of Jesus is apparent on the surface. He brooks no competitors — indeed he has none! (2) He expects us to look beyond the bread to the One who gave it — indeed we do! (3) This bread, like all bread, must be eaten every day. Yesterday's supply was only adequate for yesterday. It is for today — for right now that I must eat.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Why did our Lord twice feed in a miraculous act thousands of people? There is in the answer many areas for prayer: (1) It was because of your compassion for these people that he fed them. Is feeding the multitude an indication of my compassion or a satisfaction of my ego? Examine my heart, dear Lord. (2) These people were so interested in what Jesus taught they went without food for three days. How total is my interest in his words? (3) Jesus knew the depth of interest as well as need — oh, dear Lord, deepen both qualities in me. (4) Jesus fed people with what *they* had and *he* had — not one without the other. Teach me from this.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

How well you feed us when we come to you with our hunger. Speak to me: (1) "Creating eternal food for the hungry from my word is your job today." (2) "Satisfaction is guaranteed when you eat of the bread from heaven." (3) "Thank me for the living bread."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Jordan — Point for prayer: *Missionary work* is still needed and is a great encouragement to the national believers. Great tact and a low profile is needed in these times when a foreigner is under suspicion and often far less free to minister than the nationals. Several missionaries have recently been expelled. There are now about 24 mission agencies and 160 missionaries in the country. This number is increasing since many literature, radio and other ministries could no longer carry on in strife-torn Lebanon.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

"Man of Sorrows," what a name
For the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

WEEK TWELVE

—Saturday—

When we understand your creative genius it only seems right for us to praise you! In the world to come we shall join innumerable angels in such praise. What a privilege to prepare now in adoration before your throne.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!” (Psa. 150:6). What shall we say of yourself in this closing verse of these beautiful songs? You have created every intelligent creature in such a manner that it seems altogether right to lift our hearts to you in expression of praise and adoration. How beyond human expression will be the world to come when all angels and men lift their voices in one incredible chorus of praise! But this is no more than what should be done. It is good to contemplate the use of instruments of music enlisted to express praise to you. It is better to see man forming the words of praise in his mind and lifting them through his voice before yourself.

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 all of the above words I have tried to express what I consider the most obvious response man could and should make to your greatness and goodness, but just now I want to praise you for the reasons I have to lift my voice in praise: (1) The intricate and beautiful design and purpose I see all about me in the world in which I live. The more I contemplate the plant life — the shape and color of flowers — the more impressed I am with the One who made them all. (2) The marvelous subtleties of your work in my life — and I can extend such work to every life. In a thousand ways you have prepared my life for this very hour.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord, the above being true why should I not spend most of my time meditating upon the meaning of your word? I am glad, *delighted* for the time you

have given me — and for the wonderful opportunities you have given to share with others — but how much better could my track record be if only I would have it so. Somehow I want to find more time to memorize your word. I have committed some to memory but there is so much more I could do. Forgive me for this sin against the development of your praise in my heart.

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

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

16 The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.

²He replied, “When evening comes, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,’ ³and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. ⁴A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus then left them and went away.

—Matthew 16:1-4, NIV

And having sent them away, ¹⁰he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

11The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. 12He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it." —Mark 8:9b-12, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I am shocked! How did the Pharisees and the Sadducees get together? Surely this is an indication of the power and influence of the ministry of our Lord. The Sadducees did not even believe in such supernatural occurrences. Had any of these men been present when he performed one of the several thousand signs in his healing ministry? Had these men bothered to interview any who were either eye witnesses or actual participants in the signs he had already given? To ask is to answer. The real answer is: They did not want a sign; they wanted to discredit the signmaker. The answer our Lord gave indicates he knew their motives. Dear Lord, deliver me from this same syndrome.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I do want to hear with my heart the answer of my Lord. What was common knowledge concerning weather conditions in Palestine was used as an analogy by Jesus. The logic was devastating! He is saying you can read cause and effect in an area where you are no experts, i.e. the weather — but in the realm where you have had training you cannot put cause and effect together! Essentially Jesus is saying to these men what he says to me and to all: "I have presented my credentials. How many copies do you need?" If you won't believe the first copy why would you believe the three thousandth copy? I am not on trial — *you are!*" He reminds them (and us) that the "sign of Jonah" will convince or you will not be convinced. Praise your name, I am convinced!

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 that Jesus shocks the modernist and the fundamentalist — we must *hear him!* (2) Thank you that Jesus was not on trial — these men were. (3) Thank you we can all be weathermen — we *know* what the signs say. (4) Thank you that his signs are for *all time!* (5) Thank you that Jesus has no hesitancy in pronouncing a generation evil and adulterous. (6) Thank you that Jesus separated disbelief and unbelief — we *can* believe if we *want* to. (7) Thank you that Jesus did leave and walked away from some people — (I need to be careful in following this example.)

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Jesus then left them and went away." "Then he left

them, got into the boat and crossed to the other side." Jesus did leave the scene of action. He left more sick than he healed; he left more who did not believe than those who accepted him. Several thoughts are suggested by this fact: (1) His primary purpose was not to empty hospitals or graveyards. (He will do that when he comes again.) He came to let us know who he was, not what he could do. (2) He expects us to carry on where he left off. After all, we are the body of himself. He has sent the Spirit into us that we might have the life necessary for this tremendous task. (3) He left because remaining did no good. For those who disbelieve — for those who refuse this becomes the only recourse. How do we stand before him?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Seekers after signs! Is this different than those who seek the miraculous? There are surely lessons for prayer here: (1) The Pharisees and Sadducees could not agree — how could they agree on a sign? Help me never to come with the request that I "call the shots" on any subject. (2) There was a fatal flaw in the evaluating capacity of these men. May I see it ever so clearly and avoid it! (3) I am so glad that there could be a generation that was not "wicked and adulterous" — I want to be a part of it. (4) Just what is it I seek from you? Your Lordship or my own vanity? Examine my heart! (5) What a wonder is "the sign of Jonah"! How I want to fully learn from it.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am constantly aware that I could be "just religious" like these men who came to Jesus. Speak to me: (1) "Seek me, not my signs, and you will find all you need." (2) "Faith is a decision of the will — not the emotions." (3) "My resurrection will answer all the questions as to my deity."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Jordan — Point for prayer: Many Lebanese took refuge in Jordan in 1975-76. Pray that many may be brought to the Lord through their insecurity and sorrow. Many of these people are nominally Christian. Pray that the true believers among them may have courage to testify.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When I saw the cleansing fountain
Open wide for all my sin,
I obeyed the Spirit's wooing,
When He said, Wilt thou be clean?
I will praise Him! I will praise Him!
Praise the Lamb for sinners slain;
Give Him glory, all ye people,
For His blood can wash away each stain.