

# WEEK THIRTEEN

—Sunday—

*When we give careful heed to your word we can live in security — we can be quiet — and without fears. Even now I bow in wonder before you!*



## PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell securely, and shall be quiet without fear of evil”* (Prov. 1:33). In this comforting verse is the wonderful fact that you are concerned about man’s conduct. This is such a basic assumption that we often forget it. I take great courage in your interest in my life — and the lives of all men. Another equally meaningful fact is that we can understand what you say. In this *a priori* assumption is the important truth that you expect man to form in his mind from your words just what was in your mind. Moreover you are going to hold man responsible for responding properly to what you have said. Security and quietness can be ours when we open our ears and heart and receive your word.

*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

Over this entire year I have each day tried to do just what the wiseman Solomon here recommends. I have surely not always hearkened as well as I should, but I have been eager to read most carefully what you have written. How I praise you for the fulfillment of your promise — a deep sense of security and quietness has pervaded my life. I do not fear evil; I do fear the Evil One. I fear you much more. In both senses of the term “fear” a source of awe is meant. I have a sense of wonder in your presence. But I do not fear evil because I know it is under your control and I am hiding in you. Praise is my natural response to such a relationship.

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

## CONFESSION OF SIN

I am so glad to observe some improvement in my response to stressful circumstances. (I just had one

yesterday.) I believe it is a direct result of each day opening my mind and heart to your word. Whatever security and quietness I have comes from you by this means. At the same time, I am a long way from where I want to be and you want me to be in my daily awareness of the application of your counsel in my life. Forgive me for willful selfishness. I am sometimes selfish and do not know it until it is pointed out to me — but when I can choose and the choice is for self — dear Lord, forgive! My security and quietness are upset. Thank you for helping me to see the cause and effect in such a situation.

*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

Under His wings I am safely abiding;  
Tho’ the night deepens and tempests are wild,  
Still I can trust Him; I know He will keep me;  
He has redeemed me, and I am His child.  
Under His wings, under His wings,  
Who from His love can sever?  
Under His wings my soul shall abide,  
Safely abide forever.

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

## HIS WORD

<sup>5</sup>When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. <sup>6</sup>“Be careful,” Jesus said to them. <sup>7</sup>“Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

<sup>8</sup>They discussed this among themselves and said, “It is because we didn’t bring any bread.”

<sup>9</sup>Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? <sup>10</sup>Do you still not understand? Don’t you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? <sup>11</sup>Or the

seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? <sup>11</sup>How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." <sup>12</sup>Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. —*Matthew 16:5-12, NIV*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How dull of hearing were these disciples! As learners they were slow indeed! How synchronized were all the words of Jesus to the thinking and conversation of those with whom he sailed! His words seemed so appropriate — and yet they missed the point. How very much like many present disciples. Our Lord is so infinitely kind in his rebuke! He reminds them that if he could feed 5,000 with five loaves and 4,000 with seven loaves he could feed those in the boat with one loaf. At the same time he wants them to understand he is talking about the evil influence in the teaching of these men under the figure of bread and leaven. How I need both lessons!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Dear Lord, I do indeed want to *beware* of the strong, rapidly spreading influence of false teaching. I wonder just what the danger was in the warning of my Lord? I can think of several possibilities: (1) Their position and influence would lend prestige to what they said and more people to accept it regardless of how strange it sounded. If history is a teacher then she would say that those in authority are usually wrong when acting as theologians. (2) When three opposing sides unite against one person jealousy and envy are behind it. The leaven of envy has cut the head of more than John the Baptist.

*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 extremities which can always become your opportunities. (2) Thank you for the beautiful figure of *bread* used so often. (3) Thank you for the sharp clear warning of my Lord that there *are* false teachers. (4) Thank you for the patience of Jesus in teaching the disciples — how we need his patience today! (5) Thank you that we can indeed remember what happened with the 5,000 and the 4,000! (6) Thank you that Jesus pointed to himself as the object of their faith. (7) Thank you that the disciples finally did understand.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

*"... guard against the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees."* This strong statement presupposes

several things: (1) That the disciples would be able to discern the difference. This is indeed a compliment to the effectiveness of our Lord's teaching. (2) The man himself is judged with his teaching — or we could say his teaching decides his fate. This is one awesome thought. (3) This presupposes that these men were such effective teachers that they would be given consideration. Perhaps their political position added to their acceptance.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

After the feeding of the four thousand one would think that bread would be "up front" in the thinking of these men — but it wasn't — there are obvious points for prayer here: (1) I know at times I am as dense as these men to the real meaning of your words — I claim by faith the wisdom you promised. (2) They forgot bread and didn't understand the bread of which our Lord spoke. Do I really know the deadly danger of humanism and hedonism? Open my eyes! (3) Thank you for the time we have (all of us have the same amount) we can use in meditating upon the truth — your word as a guard against error.

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

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

In a world full of false teaching I need to hear your voice through your word: (1) "You can know truth from error or I would never have given you truth." (2) "Evil men will and do get worse and worse." (3) "My truth is the mandate of liberty."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Jordan* — Point for prayer: *Literature* in Arabic is becoming more widely available. Pray for effective distribution of books, magazines and tracts. Pray also for the work of the Bible Society in a ministry that is also strategic for the surrounding nations, where restrictions on Christian work are severe.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Sing, oh, sing . . . of my Redeemer,  
With His blood . . . He purchased me, . . .  
On the cross . . . He sealed my pardon,  
Paid the debt . . . and made me free. . .

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Monday—

*When time has disappeared into eternity you will be the same wonderful caring God we now worship. How can we be caught up in the temporary when we know we are created for eternity?*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth”* (Psa.72:5,6). There is something solidly comforting in knowing that ten or twenty or one hundred generations from today you will still be the same. Men might not be worshiping you — or perhaps time will have disappeared in eternity — but you are always the same. The sun and the moon appear to us as such permanent entities. There will be a time when the sun and the moon will be moved from their places — but there will never be a time when you change in any way. How good to put my confidence in total permanence!

*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 a more personal expression: “You are to me ‘like rain falling on a mown field.’” Dear Lord, how beautiful a description of yourself! (1) We do not deserve your mercies but each day we arise they fall upon us like the rain from heaven. (2) We sometimes mistake your mercies and complain — but like the rain we are not going to change your wonderful purpose. (3) As rain is perfectly adapted to the needs of the plant world so are your influences in our lives. If we will but wait and meditate — with thankfulness, we will see, if not in this world in the larger world to come, how your goodness was behind every shower. (4) How different are the attendant circumstances in this shower or that! Just so are your influences in our lives. I suppose there never has been one rain on a newly mown field just like another even on the same field. Thank you for your goodness.

*How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How is it I am caught up in the temporary when I know I live in eternity? How could I be so fascinated with the tinsel when I have pure gold nearby? How is it I complain about being dry when you send showers upon me as they are needed? Someone has been lying to me! Thank you for the awakening that I might see things as they truly are. My deepest need just now is to separate the temporary from the eternal. How I do need the wisdom that comes down from yourself! “Pure, peacable, gentle, easy to be entreated, without hypocrisy.” If my ability to use the knowledge which I have from your word was “pure” I would soon escape this deception of the evil one. Dear Lord, I so purpose — 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

My soul in sad exile was out on life’s sea,  
So burdened with sin, and distress,  
Till I heard a sweet voice saying,  
“Make me your choice!”  
And I entered the Haven of Rest.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>21</sup>From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

<sup>22</sup>Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Out of my sight, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not

have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." —Matthew 16:21-23, NIV  
Read also Mark 8:31-33.

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The time has come! Jesus can now explain in detail and plainly what he before had only spoken of in veiled form. Jesus not only here describes his death at the hands of "the elders, chief priests and teachers," but he kept it up. What a shock to find out that Jesus was not going to return force with force. *Jesus was not going to defend himself!* This must have been the greatest possible stumbling block. They missed the little power-packed phrase: "and on the third day be raised from the dead." If they had only been listening! How often is this true of all of us!

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Peter had good intentions. He had already developed the picture of the Messiah — and nothing Jesus said that destroyed that picture would be accepted. Peter did not lack for temerity — when he walked on the water or when he took Jesus aside and rebuked our Lord privately. We could hardly imagine a more ridiculous spectacle! And yet we are at the same time witnessing the most human of scenes. Death is a shock to anyone. If one of our loved ones were to predict his own death (even as my own father did) the first response is, "not so"! The rebuke of Jesus to Peter is also natural. Too much was in the balance for Jesus to say anything less. It was Satan's old ploy to sidetrack our Lord — and he would have none of it!

*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 thoughtful explanation of his death and resurrection — it becomes all the more precious to us. (2) Thank you for the suffering my Lord underwent for me. (3) Thank you, oh thank you! for his rising on the third day. (4) Thank you for the naturalness of the reaction of Peter — so full of credibility. (5) Thank you for the sharp deep rebuke of Jesus to Peter — how we all need, like the disciples, to hear him. (6) Thank you that I can guard each day that I am no "stumbling block" to my Lord and his purpose for today. (7) Thank you I can set my mind on the things that are above and not on the things that are from beneath.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Jesus *must* be severe in this circumstance — his whole purpose was at stake. Peter had (with so many others) fallen into the trap of Satan. This was but a repeat through the lives of one

of his devoted followers of the same offer Satan had already made earlier. How easy it is to mix "the things of God" and "the things of men." Or is it? One good look at the life and teachings of Jesus and we know "the things of God." It is rather more to the point to say: "how easy is it to look at the things of men all about us rather than to draw apart and spend time meditating on our Lord and his words." It is indeed what fills our minds that directs our speech and our actions. How many verses will I commit to memory today? Better yet: will I meditate on them until there is an involuntary response?

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I lift up my heart in these requests: (1) I want to know more and more about the meaning of his death for me. Lead me to the best sources for this information. (2) The leaders of religion are still confused — how shall I relate to them? Indeed — perhaps I am one of them! Open my eyes! (3) Write again on my heart the evidences — the "many infallible proofs" of his being raised from the dead. (4) How can men (like me) be so wrong when they (we) are so sincere? I need more knowledge here! (5) Jesus turned away from Peter so it would be true that Peter was behind Jesus when Jesus spoke — teach me such wisdom and courtesy. I sorely need it.

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

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

I am listening! Reach my conscience. I hear my Lord say to me: (1) "Please, please remember it is *always* Satan who disagrees with me." (2) "You DO NOT have to understand my reasons to obey me." (3) "Have you learned anything from the experience of others? — if so act like it!"

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Lebanon* — Population: 2,600,000. Growth rate — 2.1%. People per sq. km. 250.  
Point for prayer: *Hatred and revenge have brought death and tragedy to all.* Deep repentance and a forgiving spirit must come before reconciliation is possible. Yet in the sorrow and tensions responsiveness to the gospel has increased.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock  
Within a weary land,  
A home within the wilderness,  
A rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat  
And the burden of the day.

# WEEK THIRTEEN

—Tuesday—

*All the world is yours — “from sea to shining sea.” Ten trillion galaxies also belong to you! Isn't this good reason for praise and joy? Thank you!*



## PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more. He will rule from sea to sea and from the River (Euphrates) to the ends of the earth”* (Psa. 72:7,8). We see this literally fulfilled in the reign of Solomon. Is it prophetic of another King and another reign? We do indeed believe there will be a day when all men on earth will acknowledge that Jesus is Lord. I know also that this describes your desire for all men today. You want all men to be righteous, i.e. to fulfill your will in their lives and accept your mercy in declaring them righteous. You do want all men to prosper. Men's sin has hindered the flourishing of this prosperity. Since you want all men to be saved and be thus your children and you want prosperity for all your children this promise is open to all.

*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 answer to enjoying prosperity today (and Solomon's connotations were indeed physical) is found in the eighth verse: “He will rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.” It would be interesting to know just how much material prosperity was enjoyed in Solomon's empire. It is not a sin to be poor — but it is sin that produces poverty. Dear Lord, I do want you to rule in my life — if I am blessed with prosperity it has to do with the whole circumstance and not some magical formula I have learned. I should be just as concerned that others prosper as myself. If my Lord is my example — if Paul is to be followed then food and clothes will be adequate. The largest concern is with your rule in the hearts of all.

*How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

It surely will not be difficult to confess my sin in this area. How little is done in my experience to promote righteousness in the lives of men. I can't do much but I *can do* my part. I *can* live a life above human reproach. I *can* teach those who are my students by example and word what you have said about life. I need to be far more effective here than I am at present. Even in such a little thing (or is it little?) as gifts of money I need to believe your promises and set the example. I say this for all — but I must say it for myself first. Dear Lord, there are several ways in which I can improve here. You have blessed all us Americans in a material sense until we are known as the “haves” among those who have and those who have not. May thy goodness lead us to a deeper repentance!

*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

O that with yonder sacred throng  
We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all;  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all.

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

## HIS WORD

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup>What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according

to what he has done. <sup>28</sup>I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." —Matthew 16:24-28, NIV

Read also Mark 8:34-9:1; Luke 9:23-27.

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How beyond my poor powers of description are these words! My Lord is speaking into the heart of all in these verses. Matthew says: "then Jesus said to *his disciples*" (you & me), but Mark says: "then he called *the crowd* to him . . ." (perhaps they better characterize us). Luke says: "then he said to *them all*" — we are all there. "If *anyone* would come after me, . . ." — dear Lord, we do *want* to come after you — ". . . he *must* deny himself and take up his cross (daily) and follow me." The decision of Gethsemane must be made each day and then publically lived out before men. A man carrying a cross in Jesus' day left no doubt in the minds of those who saw him just what had happened to him or where he was going.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Jesus explains what he means: "For *whoever* wants to save his life will lose it, . . ." Our life consists of: (1) Time; (2) Thought; (3) Energy; (4) Ability; (5) Money — How do we use life? For whom do we live? To whom do we give our life? It is not at all difficult to determine. Answer the following five questions with all the honesty the Holy Spirit will enable you to produce: (1) How much of your time do you give to our Lord's words or works? (2) How often are you meditating on Jesus? (3) How are your energies presently used? If you would die right now what would Jesus lose? (4) Does Jesus benefit from your abilities? (5) How much actual cash is Jesus given from your income? Dear Lord — I *do want* to lose myself in 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 I am convinced Jesus said this for all his followers — or all who would follow him. (2) Thank you that it is the total self — or life that must be given or denied. (3) Thank you that Jesus put it in both the negative (denied) and positive (*gives* or *loses his life*) so we could not miss his meaning. (4) Thank you he said such denial or *losing* would be made public — would influence society. (5) Thank you the options are clearly stated — one is the gain of real life; the other is the loss of life. (6) Thank you for the warning that there will be a time when an accounting will be made. (7) Thank you for those followers of my Lord who set the example and gave their lives for him.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the son of Man coming in his kingdom." Since all three writers record this promise it does seem we must pay attention to it and discover its meaning! It would be easy to say that our Lord meant that all these men would be alive on the day of Pentecost and there enter into his Kingdom the church. And to a large extent such is true and did happen. But the subjective meaning to those involved is what I would like to know. *Just how did they indeed see the Son of Man coming at that memorable day?* Did any of those present think of our Lord's word and recognize the Kingdom of God? We could as well ask if the three thousand knew they were "born again" when they repented and were baptized? The more important question is what we know about such relationships?

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How shall I pray about these words? Have I in any sense seen my Lord coming in his rule in my life? I lift up these requests: (1) It is possible to follow him NOW — TODAY — please, please mark out his footprints for me! (2) I want to deny the use of time for myself that I might devote such time to you. (3) Just what is the topic of my thought? Does it relate to me or you? I deny thoughts selfish and get "heaven on my mind" — help me. (4) I have a store of energy to use up each day — how is it spent? I deny that it need not all be given to you — yes — it should and it can! Show me how!

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

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

These verses have *really* captured my attention. Continue to speak to me through them: (1) "You have unlimited creative ability — I gave it to you — what return do I get from it?" (2) "Your money is you — time to earn it — thought in the earning process — energy is expended — ability is used — how much do I get as compared with others?"

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Lebanon — Point for prayer: The country has been ravaged for years by foreign and community armies, and is, in effect, ungovernable.*

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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!

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Wednesday—

*You have appointed a covenant with your firstborn — the King of all kings — and a covenant with us — your firstborn ones — How good to know not one word you have spoken has ever failed! Gladly do I worship you!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“I will also appoint him my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth. I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail”* (Psa. 89:27,28). Since verse 20 of this psalm identifies David as the one to whom these beautiful promises are made we examine his record to find fulfillment. We could see the possibility of this being Messianic. However unless you could have indicated by one of your inspired writers such is true we are most hesitant to do so. We are more than glad to apply this to ourselves as Christians. David was not the first born in his family. He was the eighth in as many sons of Jesse. The term firstborn as used here is one of position not birth.

*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

So it is with us! Our new birth gives us an exalted position with you. We can share this position of favor with you through your exalted Son — his death and resurrection makes our joint exaltation possible. How good it will be to one day see all the kings that have ever reigned or do now reign pay homage to the one who will be exalted above them all. How comforting to rest in the love of someone who will never fail! The covenant you have made with us is in your own blood. We like David can cry out with even more meaning: “You are my Father, my God” — and to your Son — “You are my rock, my Saviour” (see vs. 26). Praise your name forever!

*How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

It is always good to reverse the praise process and realize all praise is out of grace and mercy. It is not because we deserve it that we can praise you. Our ex-

altation is in you, not in ourselves. How your love does call from within me a mutual response. My love for you has failed and I have broken my covenant with you. Here and now I do indeed renew my love and agreement. It is out of my need I call: “O thou, the most exalted of all the kings of the earth, reign over the kingdoms of my heart.” As I meditate on this I ask your rule in the kingdom of my thoughts — in the kingdom of my will or choices — in the kingdom of my emotions — and most of all reign on the throne of my conscience.

*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 love Thy kingdom, Lord,  
The house of Thine abode;  
The church our blest Redeemer saved  
With His own precious blood;  
I love Thy church, O God!  
Her walls before Thee stand,  
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,  
And graven on Thy hand.

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

### HIS WORD

**17** After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

<sup>4</sup>Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters — one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

<sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my

Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

"When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. — *Matthew 17:1-8, NIV*

*Read also Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36.*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I feel like the disciples: "the disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen." Least of all do I want to attempt to tell you what I see. But as you know this is but a form of adoration and wonder before you and your word. I only want to express to you what these blessed words mean to me. I do wonder what happened in the eight days between his words concerning discipleship and this blessed incident. In your eternal presence we can fill in all the blanks. Jesus did at least this time give his disciples a lesson in prayer. It would seem that they as before fell asleep. As he prayed something happened to him.

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

His face changed, it "shone like the sun." Was he kneeling? Was he standing? Perhaps he was prostrate on the ground. The last posture hardly seems right since the appearance of his face is mentioned by those who saw him. I wonder about how they saw his eyes. Terror was struck into the heart of those who saw him. Perhaps it was a result of being awakened from sleep to see the One you have known for so long so changed that you could hardly know him at all. Dear Lord, we are always awakened to new vistas of your glory or character. His clothes were also affected by the transformation. I wonder why such a detail is included? To confirm the reality of what is happening! 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 that our Lord, for just a little while drew back the veil that we might see his glory. (2) Thank you for your thoughtfulness in meeting the needs of Peter, James and John. (3) Thank you for the emphasis upon the physical, this is where we live. (4) Thank you for the threefold accounts — so alike yet so unlike. (5) Thank you for sending Moses and Elijah — the Law and the Prophets — it helps us see just how exalted was your Son. (6) Thank you for the tremendous subject under discussion: "His departure at Jerusalem." The spirit world knew and was vitally concerned with the affairs of earth. (7) Thank you for not leaving any question as to who should be heard and heeded.

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"He did not know what he was saying." "He did not know what to say, they were so frightened." These are the apologetic comments of Mark and Luke; Matthew does not record such an apology. It was a strange remark. What would be the purpose of the three buildings? They would be memorials to three such great men. In truth Peter did not know what he was saying! Consider: (1) Jesus was not to be compared to Moses and Elijah. (2) This experience was not to continue. (3) Buildings were not the purpose nor any part of the purpose of the transfiguration. Indeed he was speaking without thought. Isn't it much better to be quiet if you do not know what to say? Indeed it is! — but then some men are moved out of the pressure of nervousness to say *something — anything!* Such was Peter's expression. We can learn much from this impulsive man. Such a contrast to our Lord.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I have been upon this mount before — but I eagerly go again! — just as if I had not been before. Here are my present-day requests: (1) Why take Peter, James and John? I see myself in each of them — open my understanding of yourself and your Son as I share their experience! (2) I do believe Jesus is giving them and us a lesson in prayer and the world to come — I want to learn: (a) Prayer changes your appearance! (b) *The men who had died* are so much nearer than you think. (3) Conversation is exchanged in the spirit world about events in this material world — keep me sensitive — open — listening!

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

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

Surely you will say something very special through these words — I am listening! (1) "Why do you live on such a mundane level — when the real world is on a different level?" (2) "Please do not mistake what I mean by the terms 'real world' — I only speak of its eternal nature."

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Lebanon* — Point for prayer: *Protestantism is seen as as threat to both traditional Christians and to Muslims*, and also appears foreign. Eighty percent of all Protestants are from the Armenian community; only 20% from the Arab majority. Pray for the believers, their unity, fortitude, protection and witness in this complex situation.

### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

King of my life I crown Thee now—  
Thine shall the glory be;  
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,  
Lead me to Calvary.



# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Thursday—

*You are my stone foundation — my rock on which I stand. You have promised me that my house will stand — I believe you — I rejoice — I marvel at your goodness!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it”* (Psa. 118:22-24). This beautiful prophesy concerning your Son has been often used by both the inspired and uninspired spokesmen. I want to see these words just as if I had never looked upon them before. Why was the stone rejected? Obviously its appearance belied its purpose. When they looked at it out in the field they could not imagine its use as a capstone. We need to remember this stone is not overlooked but “rejected.” A cursory consideration is given and it is turned down. The humility of my Lord blinded the eyes of the proud. How indeed he did empty himself! (1) Born in a place for feeding cattle and laid in a feeding trough. (2) Running and hiding from a tyrant in the arms of a peasant couple. (3) Reared in obscurity in a carpenter’s shop. (4) Only one son among four others and several sisters. How could anyone know he was the King?

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

### PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Just for me — “the Lord (even your dear Self) has done this, and it is indeed marvelous in my eyes!” I am so impoverished of words! But I *must* try to say just how marvelous I find the *capstone*! (1) Marvelous in being able to hold every life together. You are just the balance that supports both sides of our way or gate of life. The door of life falls apart without you. All of life is but a jumble of stones without you. (2) Marvelous in how long you were willing to wait for our recognition — or is it your waiting for our awakening to the ability to see. How clearly does this teach us of the deep meaning of infinity as compared with time.

*How do you personally relate to this quality of*

*God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How imperceptibly do you lead me daily to a confession before you! I run out of resources. My life fails to hold together. Nothing seems to fit. I know what is the matter! I have been overlooking the capstone again! How marvelous to be whole! How glorious to sense completeness! How futile and frustrating is any other life. Forgive me for my blindness! Having claimed your forgiveness I can exclaim with the psalmist: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” A day of freedom from even one record of one sin. A day like the one at the deliverance from our mother’s womb. A new beginning — Praise your name! How I do seek the capstone for all the combinations of this day!

*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

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
Thro’ eternal ages let His praises ring;  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>10</sup>The disciples asked him, “Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?”

<sup>11</sup>Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. <sup>12</sup>But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands. <sup>13</sup>Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist. —Matthew 17:10-13, NIV

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How I do delight in this privilege to identify the Elijah promised in the person of John the Baptist. How little did even those who were the closest to Jesus know him! Did the meaning of his words penetrate their hearts? “. . . *until the Son of Man be raised from the dead.*” They did evidently connect his words with Messianic promise as they immediately asked about the coming of Elijah. There were so many obvious likenesses in the life and work of John the Baptist and Elijah it was a wonder that they had not already made the identification. What poignant words are these Jesus makes concerning Elijah! He said the prophet would return and “restore all things.” In our day when restoration is a real passion with many it is good to learn from our Lord what he considered “the restoration of all things.”

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Even when he came they did not recognize him. But neither did they do anything to him that was not promised or permitted. Considering the record of John's imprisonment and death we catch a glimpse of the incredible balance between the foreknowledge of God and the free will of man. In this last word about John I can learn much. (1) He was “set apart” from his birth to his death. (2) He was totally unconventional in his dress and his diet. (3) He spoke to the needs and conscience of his hearers. (4) He was unafraid of what men could do to him — and it was considerable! (5) He was human in his limitations — i.e. he suffered as we do. Disappointment and discouragement were his lot or part of what men did to him. Death was his release. We admire him even as our Lord did!

*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 interest of the disciples in what the scriptures and the scholars said. (2) Thank you that most of the time the scholars didn't have all the facts — credit then could go to the right source. (3) Thank you for the wonderful record of Elijah in the O.T. I want to read it again. (4) Thank you for the courage of my Lord as he faced the coming suffering at the hands of those who should have worshiped him. (5) Thank you for Jesus' confident assurance that he would rise from the dead. (6) Thank you for the privileges we have today because of his suffering — (oh, how poorly expressed!). (7) Thank you for your infinite love and mercy.

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“. . . *he was talking to them about John the Baptist.*” John the Baptist was a topic of conversation with our Lord more than once. It is easy to point out

some meaningful comparisons in the life and ministry of John and Elijah: (1) Both lived in the wilderness. Elijah hid himself by the brook and John was in the deserts. (2) Both had a strange diet — the ravens came to feed Elijah and John's food was locusts and wild honey. (3) In appearance they were alike, Elijah is described as a “hairy man” (II Kgs. 1:8) and John wore camel's hair. (4) The message of judgment was preached by both men. (5) They both had a tremendous influence over a large crowd. (6) Both pronounced God's wrath on the religious leaders. (7) Each man spoke before kings. (8) Both pronounced God's judgment against women — Elijah with Jezebel and John with Herodias. No wonder there was such a high estimate of John's life. He was indeed “more than a prophet.”

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

(1) Why did Jesus refer to himself as “*the Son of Man?*” — this was his most frequent description of himself. How wondrously inclusive! “The son (and Lord) of all men” — this means me! In what sense is he my son? (2) In what sense or connection should I learn from the present day teachers of your word? Help me just here! (3) I do so need the wisdom to be able to speak in the veiled language of my Lord that men will learn for themselves. (4) John the Baptist was the greatest man born of woman — he suffered *much* from ignorant unbelievers — does it pay to be good? Teach me Lord!

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

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

As Moses, Elijah and my Lord discussed “his soon departure from Jerusalem” what did they say? Speak to my conscience about this. (1) “Moses was meek but also stubborn — I can use you too.” (2) “Elijah was obedient but sometimes despondent — I can use you too.” (3) “The death of my Son was the focal point of all history.”

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Lebanon* — Points for prayer: (1) *Lebanon has been one of the key centers for Christian ministries to the whole Middle East.* Much of this outreach has been limited or stopped altogether. Pray for the restoration of freedom and a resumption of this role for the blessing of the whole region. (2) *The Bible Society* has been a major contributor to the spread of Christian Literature and Bibles. Pray for staff, supplies, distribution of God's word and openness to it.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Friday—

*We all need an escape — a fortress — a stronghold — life has too many unanswered questions — impossible obstacles. You are my divine escape where I find protection — security — peace! Thank you!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me”* (Psa. 144:2). Praise your wonderful name! It is good to return here and lift up my heart in familiar surroundings to my loving God. Often I have praised you as “my fortress” — it is good to do it again. The psalmist changes the figure just a little as he addresses you as his “stronghold.” In you I have protection as a “fortress,” but in a stronghold I have provisions for a long siege. Through yourself I shall be able to hold out against the enemy until you come to take me home. From this stronghold will a deliverer come and his name is “King of Kings.” 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 would like to represent all men and their position before you. I want to share your love and concern for all men. Just here I want to hide behind the wonderful shield I see in yourself! The shield is yourself — but my use of such protection is through faith. I feel so very weak before the horde of Satan’s forces — but I read in your word “if God be for us, who can be against us” and I find a shield between me and the enemy that he cannot penetrate. I do sin and fail my Lord — but your word says “the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin” — I confess my sin and hide behind your forgiveness. Praise your name!

*How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

My confession is spontaneous but it does seem strange. When I have such a wonderful fortress why am I found in the open field? When there is such an

abundant stronghold why do I live in a ragged tent open to the elements? When there is a deliverer to lead me who has never lost a battle why do I prefer to engage the hosts of darkness? Why do I often fight without a shield? All I can say in answer to all of the above is that I have been deeply deceived! Praise God for the light that has shown through this gloom. More and more I am ready to walk in the light. I have died like a fool dieth long enough — O Rock of Ages, hide thou me! Forgive me and renew my strength.

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Take the name of Jesus ever,  
As a shield from ev’ry snare;  
If temptations round you gather  
Breathe that holy name in prayer.

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

### HIS WORD

**14**When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. **15**“Lord, have mercy on my son,” he said. “He is an epileptic and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. **16**I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.”

**17**“O unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.”

**18**Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment. —*Matthew 17:14-18*

### READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a passage for our hearts! How shall we ever appreciate fully just what happened here? So little if anything has ever been solved by an argument. It

would seem from the lack of response to our Lord's question that even those arguing felt the same. Jesus asked a direct question: "What are you arguing about?" — It was a man in the crowd who answered. It was indeed *the* man who had a felt need who answered. And so it is always. It was the father of a poor demon possessed epileptic son. Matthew and Mark describe in graphic detail the tragic effects of this disease and demon possession. The best I can do before you is to read it over several times.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How I want to learn from this record! Teach me. It was because of lack of faith no help was given to this young man. Jesus said his disciples were representative of the generation in which they lived:

"*unbelieving.*" How well does this describe us! It is so easy to adopt the attitudes and mores of those with whom we daily associate. I say this for *myself* and *my* need. Was this child possessed by a demon from his childhood? We would associate this answer with his epilepsy. The disciples had carefully considered the problem and decided it was impossible. How typical is this response to the several "impossible" circumstances that face me every day. Dear Lord, I am the father in this circumstance: "I *do* believe; help me overcome my unbelief." I *know* you will!

*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 wonder and excitement that filled the hearts of the crowd. (2) Thank you that Jesus always put his finger on the sore spot — that as the Great Physician he might heal. (3) Thank you for the loving sincere heart of the father. (4) Thank you for the plain identification of the presence of a demon. (5) Thank you for the desperation in the request of the father — it is in just such requests our Lord has an answer. (6) Thank you for our Lord's identity of the evil spirit — it was not responsible for the epilepsy but for the deafness and dumbness. (7) Thank you for the wonderful deliverance — not understood by the people — but your own work of grace!

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

### READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"*The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, 'He's dead.'*" Jesus never seemed to either be in a hurry or worried over what men said. There have been, and are many cases that appear to be hopeless — many indeed say "He's dead," but not our Lord! What appears as death is only the rest before the resurrection! We are being taught over and over again that we must relinquish all hold on ourselves and all we have to him. It is only when he has total control over our lives that he can give us his hand and raise

us up. There are always those who will say "He's dead" — it is in our Lord's understanding and authority that we have hope.

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

### READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How many fathers have been lifted up and encouraged by this record? I do not know how many — but I know *one who has*. I lift up these requests to you: (1) I run to Jesus and cry out my need! "Help my sons — they both have needs only you can meet." (2) Was some of the brightness of the transfiguration still on his face? For me it is! Show me again his glory! I read the record yet once again! (3) Demons are *real* — but identifying them is *not* my job. I too must appeal to the only one who can help. This I do! (4) How liberating it is to know the blessed Holy Spirit lives *in me*! He is at work even now strengthening me — comforting me — assuring me! I want the faith to accept this work!

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

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

If ever there was a personal passage this is it! Continue to reach my heart! (1) "You are always in the vortex of life and death — evil and good — sin and salvation — *trust me*, I have overcome for you." (2) "Men will never understand — but I *always do* — cast your whole self upon me. Your cares, your frustration — your helplessness!"

### INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Lebanon* — Point for prayer: *Radio*. Both Far East Broadcasting Association and Trans World Radio maintain studios and produce programs in Beirut despite the danger and destruction. The FEBA studio was destroyed in August, 1985. The "Voice of Hope" Christian station in south Lebanon broadcasts the gospel 24 hours a day, locally and to all the Middle East, with some impact and response.

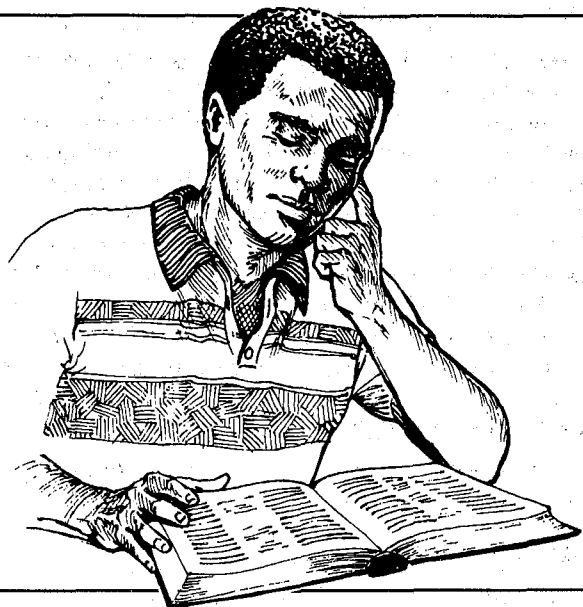
### SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Low in the grave He lay — Jesus, my Savior!  
 Waiting the coming day — Jesus, my Lord!  
 Up from the grave He arose  
 With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;  
 He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
 And He lives for ever with His saints to reign:  
 He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

# WEEK THIRTEEN

## —Saturday—

*All Christians are sojourners in a strange land — we are pilgrims on a journey — but one day we will be back home — one day our pilgrimage will cease. How I long for that city whose builder and maker is yourself!*



### PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

*“Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage”* (Psa. 84:5). Man by himself is weakness itself! You are the source of energy — of all energy and most especially of the strength all men need to face each day. The energy I need to prepare the next lesson comes from you. The health I enjoy is from you. Indeed, the health of all men is a gift from yourself! We are “blessed” because your strength does not disappoint or dissipate. We do need a renewal of your strength each day — but sufficient unto the day is your strength — praise your name! I am indeed a pilgrim in search of the eternal city. I have set my heart on a tour of that beautiful place.

*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 have set my heart on pilgrimage. As beautiful as the world you have made is, it is only representative of that land that is fairer than day. I do not want to just “put up” with the world in which I find myself — you have given it for our enjoyment and our appreciation of yourself. But *there is* a new heaven and a new earth. I am a pilgrim on my way to that city. The excitement of this hope is ever with me. The curiosity is not at all greater than the fulfillment. The wonder and adventure is always before me. Relax my hold on all that is here. Help me to travel light that I can move through the gates as soon as you call.

*How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

How too easy it is to forget! When I am weak I forget my strength is in you. When I am somehow sad I forget your words “be of good cheer.” When I am sick it is too easy to forget the health you promise.

What I am saying very poorly is that I am *not* blessed by your strength for I choose too often to live in my own. What a comfortable environment we have found for ourselves in the daily routine of this life. To say we are pilgrims in search of a city would only raise a smile to the lips of those who see how very deeply enmeshed we are in the world that now is. Break me loose! Open my eyes! Forgive me!

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

### SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Be not awaery, for labor will cease  
Some glad morning;  
Turmoil will change into infinite peace,  
Some bright morning,  
Some bright morning,  
Some glad morning,  
When the sun is shining in th’eternal sky;  
Some bright morning,  
Some glad morning,  
We shall see the Lord of Harvest,  
By and by.

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

### HIS WORD

<sup>19</sup>Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

<sup>20</sup>He replied, “Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

<sup>22</sup>When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. <sup>23</sup>They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.” And the disciples were filled with grief. —Matthew 17:19-23, NIV  
*Read also Mark 9:28-32; Luke 9:43-45.*

## READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We are all shocked at the failure of the nine apostles to cast out this demon. Was this "kind" so impossibly difficult? Had they not faced stubborn cases before? Were the shrieks and convulsive foamings a threat to these men? None of this was the problem. Their faith in their Lord had been shaken to the very foundation when they heard him say over and over again that he must go to Jerusalem and die. This did not at all represent their idea of a Messiah. They were confused. They simply did not now have the faith in Jesus they once had. Until they are willing to say with Peter, "Lord, you know all things," they were not ready really to do anything.

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The context of the promise of "mountain moving faith" is so important! They lacked faith because they doubted his word — he had told them of his soon coming death and they didn't believe it. The exercise of any supernatural power was to be based upon his word. If he said they could and should they could — if not they could not. How often do I need to remind myself of the source of faith — it is first of all in the character of my Lord, i.e. in his divinity — but it comes from what he says. The reaction of the disciples to the promise of his soon coming death is so typical of myself in the face of some impossible problem: ". . . the disciples were filled with grief" — ". . . they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it" — "It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, . . ." Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.

*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 greatness of yourself as seen in the person of your Son. (2) Thank you that Jesus had something more important to do and say than to listen to the marveling of men. (3) Thank you for the persistent earnestness of my Lord — he is the same today. (4) Thank you that no man could take his life — he freely gave it for us. (5) Thank you that nothing — *utterly nothing* is impossible for us. (6) Thank you for the total confidence I can have in you and your word. (7) Thank you for the wonderful promise of the resurrection — and he did raise to life! Praise his name!

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

## READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." How little could man do to him! — and yet how much man did to him. They did kill him — in the same act he "gave" his life for us. They shed his blood, but he also poured out his blood. He

was delivered up by the determinant counsel of yourself — but he was also slain by the hands of lawless men. Neither the responsibility of man nor the plan of yourself is emphasized — both are simply stated for our amazement. How full of wonder is that little phrase: "and on the third day he will be raised to life." It was *on* the third day, early in the morning that he came out of the tomb. How full of confidence and assurance are these words. Praise your eternal plan which issues from your love. "He is alive and I am forgiven, heaven's gates are opened wide."

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

## READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I am as full of questions as these apostles — I turn such questions into requests: (1) Just how do I know I have faith or do not have faith? I know faith is acting on what you have said — but I am not always sure of my actions — help me, help me. (2) Do I have the same power as these men? What mountains shall I move? Are these literal or figurative mountains? (3) What a powerful encouragement: "Nothing will be impossible for you." Show me how to claim this promise! (4) I do want to improve my prayer life.

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

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

Relate this verse to my private life — I open my heart to you — help me to listen: (1) "You do not hear me because you are listening to someone else — *yourself!*" (2) "Quality is always more important than quantity."

## INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

*Lebanon* — Point for prayer: *Unreached peoples*: (1) *The Druzes*. Well organized, but close-knit community with a secretive religion. Response to the gospel has been minimal. (2) *The Shi'ites* are newly powerful, militant, radical and hostile to any Western influences. Pray that they may discover the emptiness of a religion without Christ. (3) *The Kurds*: a despised and ignored but more responsive minority. (4) *The Palestinians*: a tragic, stateless people. There are Christians among them, some evangelical, but the majority are Muslim and unreached.

## SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.