

WEEK FOUR

—Sunday—

You are my only protection from "evildoers" — Draw me aside to yourself! You can and do raise me from death in trespasses and sins! I bow before you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God. Uphold me according to the promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope!" (Psa. 119:115,116). There is a certain exclusiveness in your nature. You abhor evil and love righteousness. All plants must have room to grow. Our Lord came "separated from sinners." Jesus withdrew from the crowd to allow time for the fulfillment of your will in his heart. When evildoers stifle and hinder the keeping of your will in our lives we must do something — either withdraw or cause them to leave. Such has been the record of your conduct from Genesis through the Old Testament. At the same time, if *you* yourself do not uphold us no amount of separation will give us life or hope. I believe the "promise" of verse 116 is generic, i.e., your promise to meet our needs. Dear Lord, I want to allow you also to *define* my needs.

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. "Evildoers" do not always force themselves upon me. Sometimes, too many times they came by invitation. I am speaking this to my own conscience. To spend time before the TV set is too often to invite evildoers who will defeat the fulfillment of your word in my life. To spend time talking about other people soon can turn negative and sour and become gossip and lo your word has been set aside! Dear Lord, I say these things to remind myself of my tremendous need of you! I *must* withdraw and spend time before you. I *must* memorize your word that you might uphold me according to your promise and I shall not be put to shame in my hope. Thank you for opening my heart to this deeper appreciation of your very self.

How do you personally relate to the exclusiveness of God, and God who is Love? Speak it

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is so good to be able to clear my record every day. I am glad because I know as if never before that, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," i.e., an association with evildoers, unless it is to be a friend to sinners in order to teach them, as my Lord did, will corrupt my conduct! I say from my heart with the psalmist, "Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep thy commandments." At the same time, I am confessing my failure to say this often enough or with enough conviction to prevent such corruption. I am not lost by failure — I am lost by continuing in failure. Dear Lord, I will come each day and be transformed by the continual 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

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁴Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" ¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

¹⁶They were all filled with awe and praised God., "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said.

"God has come to help his people." ¹⁷This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country. —*Luke 7:14-17, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I could never in ten thousand worlds ever tell you what these words mean to me! I want to look — and then look again — to hear and then hear again the actions of your dear Son. Jesus touched the coffin. My dear Lord will touch every coffin that was ever lowered into a grave! And with the same results! One day, "I tell you the truth . . . the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself" (John 5:25,26).

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Just for me. As soon as the dead body became the living son he began to talk. What did he say? Was it a recital of what he had experienced since he died? We cannot imagine the gospel writers would have omitted this if such was the topic of conversation. It is far more in keeping with what we know of the circumstances that he discussed topics both he and his dear mother could share. It was in his words his mother realized he was alive again. The whole point of this glorious resurrection is in the little word "awe." A great hush and amazement must have swept over the crowd that assembled for the funeral. Oh, dear Lord, I want to kneel before you in the same reverent spirit. I want to say with even more meaning than those present "God has come to help his people."

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 personalness of my Lord — he touched men and their needs. (2) Thank you that my Lord used the words "young man" because I can identify and so can all men. (3) Thank you for the direct brevity of my Lord's words — so unlike some of us. (4) Thank you for the dual purpose of this magnificent miracle — "he gave him back to his mother." (5) Thank you that no one present could escape (at least for a little while) the wonder of the occasion. (6) Thank you that these people praised the right One: "They praised God." (7) Thank you that this spread the testimony of my Lord's deity like wildfire across Judea and surrounding country.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"God has come to help his people." How beautifully descriptive of the whole mission of the Messiah. It was God in human form who raised the dead that day outside the city of Nain. God came to help his people

to see that man lives in the body and also lives without his body. The son had to return to the inert form ere it could leave the coffin. God came to help his people see how much he cared about human relationships. Jesus moved immediately to help the widow in her grief. There would be a day, perhaps, when the son would follow the coffin of his mother. And there would indeed be a day when the burial of this son would be completed. But for today our Lord could dissolve their grief in joy — so he would do it! Most of all God came to help his people to see himself in the person of his Son.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How often I have prayed at a funeral — here I can pray at a resurrection: (1) Help me to reach out and touch even when there doesn't seem to be any way to help. (2) It would be such a joy to be able to stop pall-bearers and tell the dead body to come to life. Keep me aware that one day there will be no more funerals — when my Lord returns — "Maranatha" — even so come Lord Jesus. (3) How glad I will be when my Lord gives all who have gone on before back to those who meet them in the air — I want to be ready if he should come today!

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these brief verses: (1) "I am your prophet today — hear me!" (2) "I have indeed come to help my people this day." (3) "Spread the word around today that I am the resurrection and the life."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Thailand — Point for prayer: *The tribal peoples* are generally very poor (unless they illegally grow opium), illiterate and under terrible domination of the spirit world. Many missions have labored and wept for a harvest which is now beginning to appear. Among the Meo, Lisu and Lahu strong, well led churches are emerging, but the Yao, Pwo Karen, Akha and Shan and the Kui and Khmu and also the Lahu, etc., the work is slow and hard, with believers lacking work and the encouraging of potential leaders are the great needs. Conditions are hard for the missionaries and now worsened by Communist infiltration.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Face to face with Christ, my Savior,
Face to face — what will it be?
When with rapture I behold Him,
Jesus Christ who died for me.
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 FOUR

—Monday—

I can not — I must not try to live separated from you — tune my ears — alert my heart! Give me your own encouragement! I need it!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“With open mouth I pant, because I long for thy commandments. Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is thy wont toward those who love thy name” (Psa. 119:131,132). The purpose of this portion of my worship to you is to separate from these verses the qualities of your character for which I praise you. Dear Lord, I never attempt this without a deep feeling of inadequacy. Here is what I see in this text: (1) Man becomes like a deer or some other animal about to die of thirst when he tries to live apart from you. The reverse is also true that when we are listening to you and walking in your will we are alert and strong and satisfied. Praise your name. (2) Your word is created for us and we are created for your word. The depths of man’s thirst are satisfied in you. How wonderful! (3) It is your habit to turn to man and meet his needs. How beautiful are these qualities.

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. It is one thing to find such attributes for others — it is just as important to find them for myself. Which I am very glad to do. I have been both empty of your word — and full of your word — so I know from experience what a difference there is! Satan is so clever that there have been times when I did not know what was wrong. I was thirsty inside — a great emptiness held me. And then I opened my mouth at the fountain of living water — indeed I felt like jumping in! How refreshing, how exhilarating is the meaning of every word of your book! I have no greater joy than the eternal value — the life changing application of your word! How I love you for your very nature is love. It is your habit to be gracious to me!

How do you personally relate to our thirst for God, and God who satisfies? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

There is no hesitancy on my part to admit my sin — embarrassment — and I am ashamed — but I *want* to come to you for cleansing. I *want* to be clean. I *want* to be whole. I am glad to see indications that I am losing interest in what once attracted me. At the same time, I simply do not “long for your commandments” as deeply and as often as I need to. It is much too easy to be deceived into thinking that you will *always* be gracious unto me. I need to read again this verse: “My flesh trembles for fear of thee, and I am afraid of thy judgments” (Psalm 119:120). Indeed I am! I read this “beneath the cross of Jesus,” but I do not want to continue in any sin. Forgive me and make me whole!

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

When all my labors and trials are o’er,
And I am safe on that beautiful shore,
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore,
Will thro’ the ages be glory for me.
O that will be glory for me,
Glory for me, glory for me;
When by His grace I shall look on His face,
That will be glory, be glory for me.

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

HIS WORD

²When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the

poor. ⁶Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

⁷As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in king's palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." —Matthew 11:2-10, NIV

Read also Luke 7:18-27.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How well do all of us relate to the discouragement and bewilderment of John in prison! How often have we all had second thoughts — and they were not all good. Am I right in paraphrasing your Son's words to John (and to myself and all others) "John, I am engaged in the very work you know confirms my Messiahship: (1) Many blind have their sight. (2) The lame walk. (3) The lepers are cured. (4) The deaf now hear. (5) The dead are now alive. (6) The good news of my Messiahship is preached to the poor. You will be a happy man if you just trust me implicitly." Did John trust Jesus? Whether he did or didn't we do not know; we do know Jesus eulogized John as the greatest man who ever lived.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The discouragements of imprisonment cannot even be imagined by those who have never been there. We can read of the dismal despondency that takes a hold of the whole being of those thus incarcerated. We all have asked the question: "Are you the one? Or should we look for someone else?" Maybe this is just one more dead-end street! Dear Lord, speak again into my heart the new life you gave to John in his prison. "I have power over all of this life. No one has ever come even close to performing the obvious acts of divinity seen in my miracles. Poor imprisoned humanity will never have such good news preached to them as I bring. I am the One; there is no other!" Dear Lord, I do believe. Forgive me for doubting!

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 this account — John was the greatest — but not perfect. (2) Thank you that some of John's disciples were not perfect either; they were yet followers of John, not Jesus. (3) Thank you that we are not perfect — only forgiven. (4) Thank you for the wonderful credentials our Lord presented to John and all of his deity. (5) Thank you that Jesus knew the weakness of the flesh and offered strength in himself. (6) Thank you for Jesus' estimate

of John. (7) Thank you that the last prophet was more than a prophet.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." How wonderfully true this was of John. It is the real task of every Christian. It seems incongruous that the creator of the world would need preparations for his coming. If he was a military hero or a political leader he would have included all such preparations in his budget. But when his highway is the human heart a much different preparation is needed. The one word that described those who were ready for him was "repentance." It is only when our minds are altered to match his view of life that we are ready for him.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

No doubt some of both our Lord's disciples and John's disciples prayed for this great man. There are requests in the text for our life: (1) The evident signs of deity need to be repeated often for my encouragement. (2) My Lord can and does open the eyes of our hearts to see as never before — may it happen this day. (3) How lame we all are in areas of our life — dear Lord, Make me whole! (4) Only your Anointed One can open my ears to hear your word — do it today! (5) Happy is the man who finds no occasion for falling in my Lord — I want to be that man! (6) He must increase, I must decrease. (7) I do want to prepare the hearts of men for your coming — help me.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these verses: (1) "My report to John has much more in it — look for it." (2) "Your estimate of John should agree with mine." (3) "The newest member of my body is greater than John."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Thailand — Point for prayer: *Refugees from Laos and Cambodia* have proved a very receptive field of labor for missionaries with thousands seeking the Lord from both lands. Many of these new believers have moved to other lands such as the U.S.A., France, etc. Pray for continuing evangelistic and relief ministries.

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 FOUR

—Tuesday—

How wonderful it is to know you are ordering my steps — you know my limitations! We are greater than John the Baptist. Tell me how!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Thy testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. Keep steady my steps according to thy promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me” (Psa. 119:129,133). In these words are several beautiful attributes of yourself: (1) You have given us a word that is of its very nature a reflection of yourself, i.e., your word constantly fills us with wonder. What the ancient psalmist said about your testimony in times past is true of all your revelation since that day. (2) All the qualities I see in yourself motivate me to want to keep your will for my life. I am drawn to worship you by your essential nature. The same is true of your word. I want to keep your testimonies because of their beauty — both in content and purpose.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Just for me. If all the above is true — and it is — how could my steps ever falter? Once again we are reminded that there is another power present. How very, very much I need the next quality of yourself alive and active in my daily experience: (3) You are at work steadying my steps. Indeed, this is the promise you have made to me and even now you are in the process of keeping. (4) What a beautiful combination: you have told me what to do and you give me the strength to do it! It isn't that there will never be temptation and failures — there will be, but they will not be of such a nature that they will have “dominion over me.” I praise you for such altogether adequate provisions for every day of every year.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

I can see immediately what my need is in confession.

My sin is in not spending more time with your testimonies. Not only more time, but more meditation that the wonder and beauty of your word might be increasingly apparent. My sin is that I have not put my *whole soul* into this pursuit. It will take real thought — a total willingness — unrestrained love and a clear conscience before I can say “my soul,” i.e., my whole inner person is given to keeping your will. Iniquity is never static — it never stands still. Either I have dominion over it, or it is over me. Dear Lord, I have sinned by treating sin and Satan so lightly. How I do want to develop your Son's attitude toward sin — he hated it with deep constant hatred! Forgive me and help me to do the same.

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 need Thee ev'ry hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.
I need Thee, O I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee!

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

HIS WORD

¹¹I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵He who has ears, let him hear.

¹⁶“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners.”’ But wisdom is proved right by her actions.” —*Matthew 11:11-19, NIV*

Read also Luke 7:28-35.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, in these few words and this little space I could never say one hundredth of what could be said of these beautiful words from your Son. His estimate of John the Baptist has always interested me. How different is your estimate of man's greatness! John was greater than Abraham? Greater than Moses? Greater than David? In what sense greater? He did have a unique function, i.e., of being the immediate forerunner of our Lord. Greater than all other prophets in that he could see and point out the One of whom others could only foretell. But it was his personal character also that formed a part of your estimate of John. Full of the Holy Spirit since his birth. Full of humility, self-denial and courage.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Just for me. The “bewildering amendment” attached to the foregoing estimate of John speaks so deeply to my heart! “*Yet he that is but little in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*” To say it in a few words: John was not a Christian and therefore lacked all that we have. A Christian is one who has been forgiven by the shed blood of our Lord. John could anticipate his death, and when our Lord died his sacrifice for sin was retroactive and included John and all others before the cross who died in faith. At the same time, we can presently claim what John could only promise. “The least born of the Holy Spirit is greater than the greatest born of woman.” Glory to his 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 my Lord estimated the whole record of John's life in his commendation. (2) Thank you for the present grand example John is for us yet today. (3) Thank you that we have what John promised. (Dear Lord, give me grace to receive it.) (4) Thank you that zeal and force are commendable when used in the right attitude for the right purpose. (5) Thank you for the Elijah to come that I see in John.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*They are like children, sitting in the market places and calling on others . . .*” In a very real sense our Lord could have said: “We are all like children sitting in the market places and calling out to others . . .” But what are we saying? Our Lord called out the very will of yourself. We could hardly compare Jesus to children — although he was once a child. We are the juveniles. How immature we are! Nothing pleases us. It is also because we are looking for a deliverer but we have never taken the time or thought to discover just what he looks like.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How important are these verses to life each day: (1) How great an influence was Zachariah and Elizabeth in the life of this good man? Give me such influence in the lives of others. (2) May the joys and values of the Christian life be clearer than ever to me. (3) Keep me aware that there is nothing easy about your rule in the lives of men. (4) Elijah was a bold yet humble man — how I want to be like him. (5) As I read your word — I do have ears — may I hear what you are saying. (6) Petulant childishness is such a sin — deliver me! (7) Make me a friend to sinners — just like my Lord.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these verses speak to me: (1) “There are great men in rough dress today.” (2) “It still takes force and determination to allow me to rule your heart.” (3) “Some men will never respond.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Middle East — Population: 297,517,000. Growth rate — 2.8%. People per sq. km. — 18.

Point for prayer: *The challenge of Islam.* The home of the First Century Church is now the most needy mission field in the world. The Muslim conquests virtually wiped out the decadent Christianity prevailing in these lands, leaving a despised and harrassed remnant of a great variety of ancient churches that did not succumb to Islam. Islam reigns supreme where once the Gospel was preached.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK FOUR

—Wednesday—

You are righteous forever — your law describes perfect reality. My delight in your law delivers me! Teach me yet once again how to repent.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Thy righteousness is righteous for ever, and thy law is true. Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but thy commandments are my delight” (Psa. 119:142, 143). It is so good to know Someone who amid change changes not. You are always right and always will be right. There is no smugness in your claim to righteousness. You do not consider us less then because we know less or fail to fulfill. What a comforting and amazing fact it is that all your qualities are absolute. No wonder that your commandments are my delight. Your law perfectly matches man’s need; it is true in the sense of perfectly stating reality. This life is full of trouble and anguish — some of it from my own willfulness and some by the nature of the environment in which we live, but always and ever there is something to delight my heart!

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Just for me. In my first expression of praise I have tried unsuccessfully to speak for all men. Just here I can speak wholeheartedly for myself. It will be a joy for me to finally arrive in that land of endless day — or of pure delight, and rejoice with all others in the completion of what now is a blessed promise: “Thy righteousness is righteous for ever.” It will be good to review all the subjects of man’s interest one after another and find what you have said in your book the Bible was right in every instance. I can rejoice in tribulation since I know it is but a necessary corollary to the enjoyment of heaven. If there was no darkness, how could I possibly appreciate the light? Praise your name!

How do you personally relate to the righteousness of God, and God who is Righteous?

CONFESSION OF SIN

There is much repetition in this psalm as relating to

your law, testimonies, or commandments. There is also much repetition in my sinning. If it were not for your eternal nature of love I am sure my sin and confession would become exceedingly dull. In all of my admission of failure I am only confessing my total dependence upon you — my desperate need of you. I am glad it is not my responsibility to mark out my moral practice or progress. I would either quit or become vain. I am ready to admit failure but never defeat. If you are on my side, and I know you are, who can successfully be against 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

Savior, more than life to me,
I am clinging, clinging close to Thee;
Let Thy precious blood applied,
Keep me ever, ever near Thy side.
Ev’ry day, ev’ry hour,
Let us feel Thy cleansing pow’r;
Let Thy precious blood applied,
Keep me ever, ever near Thy side.

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

HIS WORD

²⁰Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. ²¹“Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²²But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. ²³And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴But I

tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you." —*Matthew 11:20-24, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Dear Lord, I am often at a loss for words to enter an appreciation of the words from the lips of your dear Son and my king. I wonder what words he used in his condemnation of these cities. It is a judgment pronounced upon *people*. Repentance is *such* an important response to all he did and said. I want to in deed and in truth *repent!* It is a total change of the total mind. Repentance is neither sorrow nor change; it stands between both. It is preceded by sorrow and is followed by change. A change of mind that lasts indicates true repentance.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Is there an admission of failure in the words of my Lord? There is as to the response of these people. That my Lord should do so many, many miracles in these cities and yet fail to get the response expected says something very clearly to me: Not everyone with eyes sees; not everyone with ears hears; not everyone with brains thinks! These words shock me! Jesus *will* condemn to hell some people. The people here described as under his judgment were nice religious people who would not harm a hair of his head. Just an acquaintance with Jesus does not produce faith. Faith is doing what he says. Goodness is not repentance. A submission of the will and intellect to his Lordship is repentance. An education in what he did or said is not necessarily faith. Dear Lord, do I even now hear 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 revelation of the "other side of the coin" of my Lord's deity. (2) Thank you that at least someone can accept the message of his miracles. (3) Thank you for the quantity and quality of my Lord's signs. (4) Thank you for the omniscience of Jesus in his knowledge of the past. (5) Thank you for his omniscience seen in a knowledge of the judgment and just where all would stand. (6) Thank you for the fairness and even mercy of the judgment. (7) Thank you that one day all will know who Jesus is.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you." Such a strong word! But just as in all our Lord's words there is more than adequate reason behind this assertion. Let's examine several possible reasons for such a condemnation: (1) Whereas Sodom had a righteous man

in its gates "who vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their ungodly deeds," they had no one like the very Son of God to walk their streets and visit their homes. (2) The only miracle of Sodom was its destruction. How many hundreds, even thousands of people were healed in Korazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum? (3) Sodom was a heathen city — the towns of Galilee were all inhabited by the children of Israel.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Surely in the judgments of Jesus there are reasons for requests: (1) How utterly insensitive some people can be! Lord, is it I? (2) My largest need each day is to repent — I seek your motivation. (3) Since I can see, as I read, more miracles than were performed in these towns I shall have less reason not to accept his Lordship. I am asking for a willingness. (4) Opportunity spells responsibility — how overwhelming is the responsibility of our nation — and most especially her teachers! Forgive me! (5) There is a hell ahead for some people — am I associated with such persons? Speak through me to them.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these words you can reach my conscience — speak to me: (1) "How many more miracles of redeeming grace do you need before you obey Me?" (2) "He that exalts himself will be humbled." (3) "He that humbles himself will be exalted."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Middle East — Point for prayer: Missions. Early Protestant Missions in the last century frequently turned from the difficult Muslim majority to evangelizing the more receptive nominal Christians. Few of the present Protestants are from a Muslim background. Yet the sacrificial labors and tears of many missionaries among Muslims will surely yield the longed-for harvest. Missionaries need much prayer, for this is Satan's territory; discouragements, lack of visible fruit and hostility of many can cause some to give up the struggle. Pray for adaptability to new cultures, acceptability among the people.

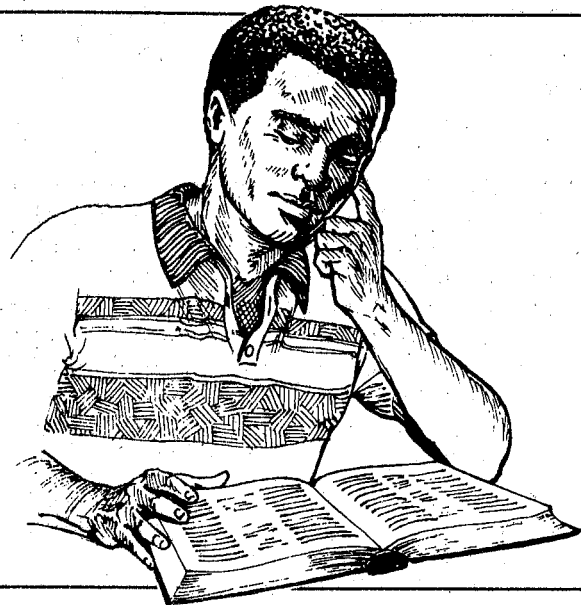
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

So precious is Jesus, my Savior, my King,
His praise all the day long with rapture I sing;
To Him in my weakness for strength I can cling,
For He is so precious to me.
For He is so precious to me,
For He is so precious to me,
'Tis Heaven below
My Redeemer to know,
For He is so precious to me.

WEEK FOUR

—Thursday—

David's example of worship is before me — You met his need — you can meet mine. I bow before you. Gladly I take on me the yoke of Jesus — rest for my heart is the result!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in thy words. My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate upon thy promise” (Psa. 119:147,148). How I do wonder at the circumstances that prompted such words. What was it that moved the psalmist to cry for help? What problem would keep him awake most of the night? Regardless of the environment out of which these words come they express qualities of yourself for which we lift our hearts in praise. There is no stress in life for which we cannot seek your help. If something presses down upon us and sleep will not come we can cry to you and you will indeed help us! The source of help is in your words. How eternally important it is that we keep your word ever before us.

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

There have been times when sleep escaped me — not many times — but I want to confess that my meditation was on some solution and not upon your word or upon your promise. Perhaps there will be other nights when I can make direct application of these blessed words. I want to learn how to so meditate upon your word that all the hope in life is found there. Your essential promise is to enable me and forgive me. I purpose to give myself to you in the examination of every word in your book every day of my life, i.e., some portion of it every day! I need to improve on my meditation — help me!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

For all the days when I called upon someone else or something else for help forgive me! When my hope

has been in things and not in your words forgive me. For all the times when I forgot or neglected your wonderful promise to be with me — forgive! I am so glad that I want to ask you for cleansing. It is good to be inwardly moved to want to seek your approval. I sense that just on the other side of this present circumstance is a really bright tomorrow. There is a time really close when I will find more and more hope in your words. There is a day really near when I will be able to meditate upon your promise in such a manner that I will be filled with peace and joy! In the face of hope I ask for forgiveness of my present sins.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Sweetly, Lord, have we heard Thee calling,
Come, follow Me!

And we see where Thy footprints falling
Lead us to Thee.

Footprints of Jesus, that make the pathway glow;
We will follow the steps of Jesus where'er they go.

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

HIS WORD

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

²⁷“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” —Matthew 11:25-30, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Of all times when our Lord should be full of praise and thanksgiving we would hardly expect it here. Jesus had failed to communicate to those who should have appreciated him most. What profound purpose we can find in this for our reasons for praising you! Here are some reasons for our Lord's praise: (1) His Father, the Lord of heaven and earth was in control; the universal Sovereign had not lost his position. (2) The separation of those who wanted to hear and those who did not want to hear was clearly drawn. (3) For the obvious autonomous nature of salvation. Salvation is of God. (4) That God the ruler of heaven and earth stoops to bless the nobodies and rankest beginners — the babes!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I have hoped (sometimes unsuccessfully) that my expression of worship in the above section has generic application. In this area I want to be just as personal as possible. How hauntingly poignant is the invitation of my Lord to : "Come unto me." And yet, I *must* read just as carefully his pre-conditions for approaching him. I cannot, I will not, come until I am as humble as a child. I cannot learn from him until I am transparently sincere in my desire to know. If I feel I am wise and learned I just as well not come for I will not listen — if I do I will not hear — if I do I will not submit. It is only when I am truly weary and burdened that I can find his rest. Dear Lord, I must think and pray before I come. I believe my Lord has fashioned a yoke that just fits my stubborn neck. Dear Lord, I *do want* your rest for my life.

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 example of my Lord in praising and thanking you. (2) Thank you that I can with him praise you as "Lord of heaven and earth." (3) Thank you for the marvelous prerequisites to learning: ignorance, wonder, faith. (4) Thank you that you (my Father) take pleasure in such an attitude on our part. (5) Thank you for the plain claim of omniscience made by my Lord in these verses. (6) Dear Lord, I want to be that one to whom your Son chooses to reveal your will. (7) Thank you for the privilege of bowing my head and receiving your yoke.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Our Lord must have made and helped make a good number of yokes while he worked in the carpenter's shop. The fit of the yoke to the neck of the ox was so very important. If the yoke was not "easy" or did not fit it could cause great discomfort to the poor beast and could result in the loss of the animal as of any

use to the owner. We are sure that Joseph and Jesus made the best yokes in all of Nazareth. This says so much to us. Everyone wears a yoke. We are all in someone's service — even if we just serve ourselves — we serve. Who could know better how to help us find peace and purpose than the One who created us? Isn't it better to serve a gentle humble master under a light burden with a yoke that fits?

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Here is an example of praying from my Lord — surely I can learn from him. (1) I praise you Father because you are Lord of heaven and earth. I want this to be a reality in my understanding. (2) Please reveal to this babe the deeper meaning of your words. (3) That you take pleasure in revealing your will to us becomes a great motive for study — help me. (4) I accept at face value the words of your Son: "No one knows the Son except the Father" — how much more there is to learn of him! I do so want to know more. (5) I am delighted for the modifying clause concerning yourself — Jesus has made you known to us. Open my heart!

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In the gracious invitation of your Son I hear you speak to me: (1) "I specialize in helping the weary and burdened — bow your heart to receive the yoke." (2) "Rest in your soul is much different than rest for your body." (3) "If you are not gentle and humble you are not like me."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Middle East — Point for prayer: Missions — There are encouraging signs of a growing concern in Western lands for the evangelization of the Muslim world. a) The number of missionaries in the Middle East has risen to over 1,300. b) The increasing numbers of Christians in secular employment in the Middle East, who give up good prospects in their homelands to witness in this way. These need much prayer. c) The growing army of permanent and short term workers witnessing among immigrant Muslims in Europe. There are 3,000,000 Muslims from the Middle East now working in Western Europe. There are now more Turkish and North African Christians in Europe than in their own countries.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK FOUR

—Friday—

Both yourself and your word are near me. I have been a longtime student of your word. I want to recline at your table with your Son!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“But thou art near, O Lord; and all thy commandments are true. Long have I known from thy testimonies that thou hast founded them forever” (Psa. 119:151,152). My purpose is always the same: to raise an attribute of yourself before the throne of grace in adoration and praise. In these two beautiful verses I can gladly do this. Praise to your glorious name because: (1) You are near. Nearer indeed than the very air I breathe. Present above me, within me, around me, ahead of me, behind me. So near that I can speak to you as my most intimate friend. At the same time, I am moved to fall before you in wonder — the Creator and Sustainer of all things. (2) All that you have said in your word — and I equate this with the Bible — is in total agreement with reality. In every examination your “commandments” conform perfectly with what we know in every branch of science. (3) Long have I demonstrated subjectively that your word is true. I have proved it time and again to meet every need of my heart and life.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Just for me. Dear Lord, I would that what I have just said were said by all men. Surely all men could come to the same conclusion if given the same evidence. You are not far from anyone of us. Just now I want to acknowledge the lovely thought that “Long have I known from thy testimonies that thou hast founded them forever.” I am a few years from the allotted three score and ten but the more I meditate upon your words the more deeply am I convinced of their eternal nature. Someone beyond time and space has caused them to be written. To look beneath the surface of your word is to find you. I have been greatly impressed all over again at the record of “fisherman” John. Given the set of circumstances out of which this man came there could be no other explanation to the profundity of his thought. Praise your name.

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is the whole-soul purpose of Satan to cast doubt upon your word. From his first expression in the garden: “Yea, hath God said?” to the present so-called “liberal” theologian he has not stopped his efforts to overturn your testimony. How sad it is that I must confess my sin in listening to his doubts. I listen to his lies and the doubt is mine. I do not minimize the need for a thorough examination of all the evidence. But even after such a pursuit “How can you believe, who receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?”

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

Alas, and did my Savior bleed?
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?
At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

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

HIS WORD

³⁶Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume. —Luke 7:36,37, NIV

²⁰Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.” —Mark 3:20,21, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

There is always so much to see and hear for my own heart in every word I read from the life of my Lord. I do want to read this from your perspective. I do not know who the Pharisee was who invited my Lord to his home, but I am sure he did not know who it was who reclined with him at the table. How far away was my Lord when they were ready to eat? Since the crowd was so great Jesus probably was only a few inches away. How I would like to have been a guest at that meal.

How easy it would be to misunderstand our Lord's work. What a contrast this feverish activity was to the quiet life he had lived in Nazareth! But then our Lord has always been misunderstood by us who should know him best.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It has been a constant source of wonder to me as to how James, Joseph, Simon and Judas could live for years and years in the same house with Jesus and really never know him. I believe James wrote the epistle that bears his name. Is this why he is so insistent on a faith that works? He had faith — and he had *no* faith. Lest I am too critical of James or Judas or Joseph, I need to remember that the "Other Jesus" or the "Other Comforter" has taken up residence in my house — or my body, and I really "know him not." Jesus came to his own — and those who were his own in the nearest of human relationships knew him not. The one we would least expect to know him came with a gift of perfume.

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 there was at least one Pharisee who wanted to offer hospitality to our Lord. (2) Thank you that Jesus integrated his teaching with eating. (3) Thank you for the popularity of our Lord, at least he could speak to many who would have otherwise not heard. (4) Thank you for the concern of his mother and brothers — even if misplaced, it was concern. (5) Thank you that what seems insanity to some is the work of my Lord.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... she brought an alabaster jar of perfume." Why did she bring this expensive ointment? What she did with it will of course answer our question. The real reason is found in her love for our Lord. She must have known Jesus before he went to the Pharisee's house. It was a bold act of faith to enter this house uninvited. It was even more courageous to anoint our Savior's feet. Who was this woman? All attempts to identify her seem to me to be inadequate. It is enough

to know she can represent only one of us. She was a sinner who loved much.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

What an encouragement to pray is the encounter of human need: (1) I wonder how many houses my Lord entered during his ministry — I do want, Lord, for you to make my house your house. (2) My Lord was not distracted or disturbed with the interruption by men — how I want to be like him. (3) Those who were the closest to my Lord seemed to understand him the least — if such happens with me help me to remember him. (4) Jesus went to a Pharisee's house to eat — wouldn't this decision upset some people? How I want your wisdom in my associations! (5) Why did this sinful woman want to be with Jesus? There was something wonderfully approachable about Jesus. How I want to be like him!

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these precious verses speak to me: (1) "Crowded can be both good and bad depending upon your motives." (2) "If people think you strange or unbalanced they thought that of me." (3) "Men are not guilty by association."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Middle East — Point for prayer: *The National Believers* — They are few and scattered, and much in need of prayer as they live in very difficult circumstances. It is easier for them to emigrate to lands with greater religious freedom — as many have done. Probably the majority of converts out of Islam have left their homelands for this reason, for they face extreme pressures. There is a great need for the planting and growth of vigorous churches.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK FOUR

—Saturday—

When I consider that I have a book before me authored by yourself — I take great delight in reading it! I want to express my love and gratitude to you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The sum of thy word is truth; and every one of thy righteous ordinances endures forever” (Psa. 119:160). What a marvel to find hidden here in the 119th Psalm this lovely verse! I agree with the conclusion here related and apply it to your whole revelation as found in the sixty-six books of your book. (I am not at all unaware of the opinions to the contrary.) I have never found one word of your book in disagreement with fact. How comforting to know that the sum total of what you have said is the whole truth! Dear Lord, I believe that when this earth has melted with fervent heat not one word of your righteous ordinances will have failed of fulfillment. There could hardly be a greater characteristic for which I praise you. The wonderful compatibility seen in what I read in your word and what I see in life leads me to exclamation of praise.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

For myself. — I want to honor and praise you in some specific areas of life where I have found this verse to be so eternally true: (1) “The sum of thy word is truth” on the subject of *love*. To pursue the references found in *Monser’s Topical Study* on this one subject is to be increasingly amazed. The example of love seen in my Lord and reflected in the life of Paul is so far above anything anyone else has said from any other source that there is no comparison. (2) “The sum of thy word is truth” on the subject of *disagreement*. This is such an important area. How shall we handle this sticky problem in human relationships? It is easy to trace from Genesis to Revelation the subject and agree with the psalmist.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear Lord, how shall I know the truth of any theme until I have digested all you have said? To be ignorant and in the dark — and even to curse it, is one thing — to be *willfully* in such a place is quite another. I have never been moved so deeply before with the need for constant meditation on your word. I confess my tragic lack in this pursuit. I have run a little way, but in so many subjects I have lived in the dark — and sometimes I complained bitterly. Forgive, forgive me! There are other areas of sin — of my personal violations of your law. But in everyone of my personal sins I see a lack of a knowledge of the sum total of your word on the subject. I know that knowledge has a tendency to puff up. I know that only a personal relationship with you avails anything, but the light of your word shows me your face! I love you, 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

Must I be carried to the skies
On flow’ry beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize,
And sailed thro’ bloody seas?

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

HIS WORD

³⁸and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is — that she is a sinner.”

⁴⁰Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven — for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." —*Luke 7:38-47, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Since I have been in your service so long, and since I know my own sins, to at least some extent, I hardly know how to identify. I can relate to *both* of these participants. Simon who did not love as he should, and with the woman the forgiven sinner. Dear Lord, I want to learn from both of them.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I know that prayer has five expressions: (1) petitions; (2) intercessions; (3) thanksgiving; (4) praise; (5) confession. I want to relate myself to Simon and the woman in each of these expressions of prayer: (A) *Simon*: (1) Break my hard heart. (2) For every prostitute in my town I pray someone — even myself will communicate your forgiveness. (3) Thank you that you open my eyes to see much more than form. (4) Praise your name that you open my eyes to my need. (5) I am a self-righteous hypocrite in some areas of my life — I repent. I *want* to change. (B) *As the woman*: (1) Dear God, I could never express my gratitude for your love. (2) Open the eyes of the hearts of religious people that they may see as you do. (3) Thank you for the deep peace in my heart. (4) Praise is my whole expression of the whole day. (5) My sin is forgiven — help me to forget it as you have.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the wonderful tears of repentance. (2) Thank you that our Lord did not resist being touched. (3) Thank you for the value the woman placed on her love for her Lord. (4) Thank you that Jesus lets none of us off as "the good guys." (5) Thank you that the debt of sin can be, and is, forgiven!

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Which of them therefore will love him more." Loving is the involvement of the whole person. Our Lord is essentially asking: Which of them will give himself to the One who forgave? To whom much is given — by way or form of forgiveness, much is expected. What would be expected? (1) A deep continual sense of thanksgiving. When he thought what could have happened to him; when he considered what happened to others who could not pay and were forgiven he was so full of thanksgiving. (2) A very high estimate of the character of the one who forgave him. If he admired him before, he now had something very personal about his admiration. All of this speaks so near our own hearts.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I see so much in this incident that moves me to pray: (1) How can I help those so deeply involved in illicit sex in my day? (2) Teach me ways I can use in bringing such people to Jesus. (3) My Lord was not offended by this effusive expression of affection — how much can I associate with custom — how much with character? (4) How deeply indebted I am to you — I want my debt canceled! Will I love you for it? (5) Give me your view of the awfulness of sin's bondage that I might appreciate my liberty.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

As a guest with my Lord in the Pharisee's house I want you to speak to me: (1) "Tears are welcome when they wash my feet and cleanse your heart." (2) "Only real faith can save you." (3) "Only the one who has been forgiven much can love much."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Middle East — Points for prayer: (1) *Converts out of Islam* for a close walk with the Lord, deliverance from all the erroneous Muslim thought patterns, a desire and opportunities for helpful fellowship with believers, acceptability by other Christians who are often suspicious of such converts, and boldness in the face of threats, ostracism, physical danger, etc. (2) *The witness of the believers* — deliverance from fear of witnessing, life style that recommends the Gospel, tactful winning of Muslims where the law forbids such a witness.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood;
Hallelujah! what a Savior!