

WEEK FIVE

—Sunday—

I have found great spoil! A king has left it for me! It is your word! If I entered the closet seven times a day it would not be adequate time to praise you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"I rejoice at thy word like one who finds great spoil. Seven times a day I praise thee for thy righteous ordinances" (Psa. 119:162,164). Dear Lord, how blessedly good it is to be rested and able to come into your presence with great eager anticipation! Even as our Lord said the rule of yourself is "like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; there in his joy he goes and sells all he has and buys that field" (Matthew 13:44). How shall I know of any part of the treasure's value without your word? If Matthew, Mark, Luke and John had not written down what they saw and heard I would have no treasure. If the writers of the Old Testament had been too busy to write I would never know of all you have for me. Seven times a day will I praise you for 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

Just for me. How I want to examine and appreciate the value of every word you have given to me. I stand back in wonder and amazement at the beauty I see just at first look, but the more I look the more beautiful detail I see in each verse. As the man with the treasure I do not plan on keeping this treasure for my own enjoyment alone, I am going to see it and allow it to circulate in the marketplace of mankind. Even now I am engaged in a project to get your word out to at least six foreign countries. Dear Lord, direct me! There are so many comparisons I can make to a treasure and your word. I want to lift just two up for praise to you: (1) A treasure represents much thought, energy and time — your word has your mind, your life and eternity in it! Praise and glory to your name! (2) A treasure is full not only of beauty but value. A perfect combination. Indeed, indeed your word is full of beauty and value!

How do you personally relate to the beauty of

God, and God who is Beautiful? Speak it out or write it out. It is so important that you establish your own devotional journal.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How sorry I am that I do not always feel as I do just now. I know that your equation of reality is: (1) Your word or your facts; (2) my faith; (3) my feelings — but there is such a difference in the attitude I have at times when I approach your word. I can be defensive because of my sin; I can be introverted because I am ashamed; I can be dull and insensitive because I do not wish to face your facts about my sin. Ah, but when I come eager to confess my sins and rid myself of anything that hinders the free course of your will in my life, what a joy is mine! Such is my desire just now, dear Lord.

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

All the way my Savior leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who thro' life has been my Guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

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

HIS WORD

⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven — for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." — Luke 7:47-50, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Gladly, gladly do I do this! Sometime, somewhere before this incident our Lord had encountered this dear woman. She had confessed freely, fully, tearfully her sins. Jesus had assured her that her sins were forgiven. Indeed, she came to him as the Messiah to receive such forgiveness. But there was more to her forgiveness than relief. She was overwhelmingly in love with the One who had forgiven her. This one who had much sex and no love now was consumed with a desire to express her love.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What they said *was* important, but it was on another subject. Related but not the subject of love of a forgiven sinner. *Method* so often trips us up. We are so often involved in *how* something shall be done that nothing is accomplished. Jesus was God — only God can forgive sins. The words of forgiveness were given intentionally to point to his deity. I hear him! Dear Lord, I am the sinner to receive his words. The closing words are so full of meaning: "your faith has saved you; go in peace." Faith comes by accepting or trusting what our Lord has said. Jesus forgave her; she believed he could and did. She emotionally — totally related to his words. This is real faith — this produces real peace!

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the clear plain eternal offer of sins forgiven. (2) Thank you that no sins are too numerous or too bad to be forgiven. (3) Thank you that Jesus is as much alive today as then and speaks the same words to me. (4) Thank you that I can respond just like the unnamed woman. (5) Thank you that I am taught that forgiveness can be the wellspring of gratitude. (6) Thank you that I can also see some men will never be forgiven until they know they are sinners. (7) Thank you for the sharp and clear picture of my Lord as God among men.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Your faith has saved you; go in peace." What beautiful words from the only one who can forgive sins! From how much had this woman's faith saved her! (1) From the humiliation of being a commodity instead of a person. Sex is like food — it will be a part of life because of its nature. When men buy food no problem occurs that affects the food. Men do

misuse food the same as sex. But when men buy other persons and use them to satisfy their own desires it is a tragic loss to the person. (2) Saved from the deep estrangement she felt within her own self. Prostitutes tell us that a deeper loneliness takes hold of their heart that can be described in human language. (3) Most of all she was saved from the awful frustration and constant agitation associated with this relationship. She had peace!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How many requests are there in the context of the forgiveness of sins? (1) Remind me all over again that my sins are always viewed as under the blood. (2) Thank you that repentance is an attitude — I claim the result of such an attitude — I hear my Lord say: "Your sins are forgiven." (3) I can answer the guest's question: "It is God incarnate in human form who forgives sins." Deepen my appreciation of the deity of my Lord. (4) How much fuller is the meaning of the term "saved" as used here by Jesus. Her whole life was saved. I need and claim such a salvation for myself. (5) I cannot imagine this woman continued in her former manner of life — she had enough of the chaos of sin. I need your peace to guard my heart and thoughts.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In these four verses speak to me: (1) "Your past sins have all been forgiven — do you doubt my present ability?" (2) "Trust in my willingness to forgive is the basic need of all life." (3) "Accept my peace."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Middle East — Points for prayer: (1) *The need for Christian homes* — these are very few. Unequal marriages between Christians and Muslims are the major cause of backsliding. The Muslim world needs to see the beauty of a Christian home. (2) *The cultivation of a missionary vision*. Arab missionaries are more acceptable than Westerners in many lands. There are now about 230 Middle Eastern missionaries — largely from Egypt, Jordan and Syria, who are serving the Lord in other Middle Eastern countries. Many other Christians also work in lands closed to normal mission work — in Libya, Arabia, etc.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus is all the world to me,
My Friend in trials sore;
I go to him for blessings,
and He gives them o'er and o'er.
He sends the sunshine and the rain,
He sends the harvest's golden grain;
Sunshine and rain, harvest of grain,
He's my Friend.

WEEK FIVE

—Monday—

“Great peace have they who love your law.” I have truly found it so. Evil shall not have dominion over us. Praise your name!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Great peace have those who love thy law; nothing can make them stumble. My soul keeps thy testimonies; I love them exceedingly” (Psa. 119:165,167). In these two precious verses are two characteristics of yourself. As out of the abundance of the heart our mouths form the words — so your words are the expression — the extension of yourself. (1) You have given us a word that properly received will produce a great unassailable personal peace. The quality of character reflected here would be a complete understanding of the deepest needs of man. (2) You have given us a revelation in the form of what we call the Bible with the capacity to bring peace and tranquility to every relationship of man: with himself, with others and with you. The 167th verse gives us the key to open this quality in our experience: *“my soul (total self) keeps thy testimonies.”*

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. There are not many things that make me stumble — just one thing: the loss of peace. There are not many things that destroy my peace, just one thing: failure to love you (as revealed in your word) with my whole self! Somehow there must be an integration, a transfer, an assimilation of the words on the pages of your book into the wellsprings of action in my life. *Love* is the answer. Read again these words: *“Those who love thy law”*; *“I love them exceedingly.”* How about an application of the characteristics of love as found in I Cor. 13:4-7. (1) My love for your word is patient and kind in the application of it in every relationship. (2) My love for what you have said is not jealous or boastful as I compare my acceptance with others. (3) My love for what I read in your word is never arrogant or rude. Dear Lord, it is easy to say I love your word and your Son — it is something else to live it. Forgive me.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Do I need to spell out just how short I fall of the above qualities? I know I do and I openly and in detail confess my miserable failures to you. Lord, how can I be more patient — more humble? *Love* is the answer — *love* is meeting the need — in my own life — in the lives of others, but the attitude accompanying such an effort — ah, it is there I am short. (4) In my receiving your word in my relationship with others I am never overbearing in an insistence of my own way. Such a statement is a *“pious platitude”* — it is not true. Forgive me. I want to change. (5) I am never irritable or resentful in the daily living of your word. What a joke! I am blood guilty, but I want to repent. 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

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.

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

HIS WORD

²²Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. ²³All the people were astonished and said, *“Could this be the Son of David?”*

²⁴But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons." —Matthew 12:22-24, NIV
Read also Mark 3:22

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Each time I approach this section of my worship I pause — for two reasons I pause: because I really never know just how to express myself — and second, because I am reminded once again how sharp and penetrating is your word. As I look in the face of this poor man I see myself! I do not believe any Christian is demon-possessed — at least I find none in your word, but I do know since Satan is not an omnipresent being we are attacked by demons. I, indeed am under constant attack like other Christians.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

I see myself and indeed all men in the exchange of my Lord with this unnamed man. (1) If we are going to have any help it will be because our friends have brought us to Jesus. How could I ever thank you enough — or those dear friends who first came so long ago and brought me to my Lord? (2) Of the evil influence at work in our lives we can really never know. The depth and power of Satan's influence are known only to you. (3) We do know that whereas we were blind now we see! Oh, the startled wonder of being able to look at life through your eyes! (4) We were once mute or dumb to the words of praise and eternal value; now we can speak as you speak — we can lay your word up in our hearts to come out of our mouth.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that the disciples had learned that no case was hopeless. (2) Thank you that the disciples did not argue among themselves as to what should be done. (3) Thank you that Jesus is our One and only deliverer. (4) Thank you for the completeness of our salvation. (5) Thank you that the wonder and power of your miracles will never leave us. (6) Thank you for the clear cut choice: either God or Satan. (7) Thank you for one who knew beyond all controversy who healed him.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons." This was a deadly dangerous statement. Since our Lord knew the hearts of these men he knew this was a calculated conclusion. These men meant it! These Pharisees had been moving toward this statement for weeks and months. "There was something supernatural about Jesus" they said, "and now we know who it is — it is Satan."

What a totally illogical assumption. What an impossible conclusion and yet they made it. It was the unpardonable sin! It was the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. At the base of these words is the rejection of his deity. They had heard him and seen him in his miraculous ministry — to now decide that all his work was directed and empowered by Satan was the ultimate of rejection. This was rejection with no recourse. How dangerous it is to be religious but not Christian.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In this confrontation I find much about which I want to pray: (1) The poor possessed man is almost forgotten in the midst of the argument. How easy it is to forget human need in the heat of a theological discussion — deliver me from this. (2) Guard my thoughts that I might recognize Satan's efforts to deceive. (3) I am glad to acknowledge that Jesus has the ability to free me from Satan's power — dear Lord, I want to claim such supremacy. (4) Jesus said that His power over demons was a demonstration of your kingdom — an example of your rule in the heart of man — how I do want to learn from this thought — give me wisdom!

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I can hear your voice in these verses if my ears are open: (1) "I have entered and bound Satan — this does not mean he is dead." (2) "You cannot be passive with my word and serve me." (3) "Fragmentation of personality is a result of not staying near to me."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Middle East — Points for prayer: The most Effective Means of Reaching Muslims: a) *Medical work* — this opens up countries and hearts to the Gospel. This is the only way in which missionary work can be done in Yemen, some Gulf States and Afghanistan. Pray for this ministry — that it may create opportunities for a witness to Muslims. There is continual cry for more medical workers. b) *Personal witness* by nationals and missionaries is the most effective way — but this needs a high degree of self-giving, much love and patience and a great faith.

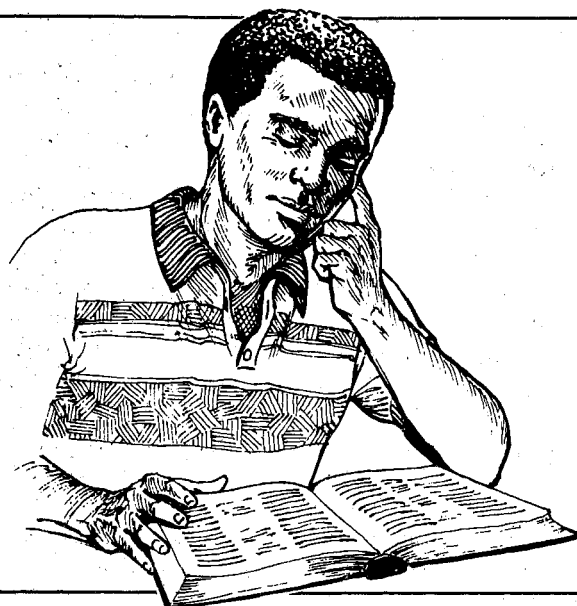
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
From the curse to set me free.
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 FIVE

—Tuesday—

All my going out and coming in is known to you. You love me in the details of life. Accept my worship as I bow before you.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“I keep thy precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before thee. . . . Let thy hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen thy precepts” (Psa. 119:168, 173). Such a blessed statement of comfort is the last phrase of verse 168: “for all my ways are before thee.” There are no days without you. I may not care but you do! You indeed are the “silent observer” — in another sense you have spoken very eloquently for your precepts and testimonies are given for that purpose. I want to lift up this quality of yourself and praise you for your total involvement in all I am and all I do. My emotions are not always involved in my appreciation of this quality of yourself, but it is nonetheless true. Your hand is ever ready to lend assistance and chastening as needed. I review any week of my life and acknowledge the truth of these blessed words. What I say of myself is true of all men who love you and have made you their Father.

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. There is such a vital and essential connection between “keeping your precepts” or “choosing your precepts” and your direction in all the ways of my life or the moving of your hand to help me. I would not say the only way you take an interest in my life is in my willingness to follow the rule book you have left for mankind. This is far too cold and objective. At the same time if I am not ready to read and obey how can you help me at all? I am your child, you have given me instructions for life in your word — indeed, you have furnished to me all things for social and spiritual relationships. However, you are personally concerned in just how I carry out your instructions. If I falter you forgive, if I stumble you explain more closely. I believe the “wisdom” promised by yourself in James 1:5-7 is the best use of your instructions. I claim your presence and your help.

CONFESSION OF SIN

It is sad to have such a clear view of what can be done and fail to do it. In all my ways are instructions and directions from your precepts — it is up to me to ask for wisdom in the application of your word to a particular circumstance. This I have not done — dear God, I am the poorer. Your hand is ever ready to help me but I have not always chosen your precepts — how can you do your part if I will not do mine? You can't, i.e., you are limited by your own word not to. Forgive me! I purpose to spend much more time meditating upon your word.

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

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand th'eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

HIS WORD

²³So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: **“How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house. ²⁸I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. ²⁹But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.”**

³⁰He said this because they were saying, **“He has an evil spirit.”** —Mark 3:23-30, NIV
Read also Matthew 12:25-37.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I want to do the very best I can in each of these expressions of worship, but especially in this area. Your Son seems here to confront opposition in the most basic form. Either he is who he said he was or he is controlled by the evil one. There is no neutral ground. The tree is good or bad. There is either gathering or scattering. The lines are drawn and the decision is at hand. Speak to all our hearts that we might guard well our choice!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Just for me. To say lightly, "Lord I believe you are the Son of God" and then not produce in our lives the results of that decision is a form of blasphemy. How wonderfully strengthening it is to identify all the figures of speech. (1) The king who is stronger than the great king of darkness: Our King, your dear Son, who has a kingdom and citizens. How tragic that Satan's subjects are so much more responsive to him — even if by terrible coercions — than ourselves as subjects of the King of kings and Lord of lords. (2) The strong man and the stronger man. Our bodies are the house of these strong men. How wonderful to read and accept that Jesus can bind and cast out Satan — or demons. This house and the throne in it can be made "good" or clean and Jesus can and will reign within. Even so come Lord Jesus! Welcome to the throne of my life!

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the ability of my Lord to know the thoughts of the hearts of all men. (2) Thank you that I know that Satan is an intelligent being and rules as sovereign over a kingdom of darkness. (3) Thank you that Jesus clearly confronts Satan's servants and makes all see — who have eyes — just who he is. (4) Thank you for the knowledge that I am no match for Satan and he can run and rule and ruin my house. (5) Thank you so much for the stronger man! (6) Thank you I can make the whole tree good. (7) Thank you that I am now ready to confess and do confess my Lord as your Son and my only Savior.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"... men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken." How often have these words haunted me! And then I can remember to whom they were spoken. At the same time the point is not lost on anyone of us. We would like to think that the idle or careless word could be easily overlooked as not the real measure of the speaker. It is just here our Lord points out to us

that it is out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. It is with the condition of the heart our Lord has special concern. The Pharisees had been cultivating the soil of their heart. They *were* responsible for what grew there.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Here are my requests from these verses: (1) Help me to give Satan no advantage in anything. (2) Divided loyalties kill incentive — how I like being whole! (3) Rule the whole of my life. (4) I am glad there is an end to Satan's rule — in some area of my life may his end be today! (5) Dear Lord, enter my house and tie up the strong man within me. (6) I am glad to speak for the blessed Holy Spirit — may He have free course in my heart. (7) Guard me from an insensitive attitude.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me in these verses: (1) "I can indeed bind the strong man — you cannot do it." (2) "All sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven — except one." (3) "My mercy and goodness should be as apparent here as the exception — of Holy Spirit blasphemy."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Middle East — Points for prayer: (1) *Literature* — more and more good literature for Muslims, and Arabic teaching literature for Christians is now being produced. Pray for ex-Muslims engaged in writing these materials, for publishers and bookstores, etc., who seek to get this literature into the hands of those who need it. Much literature has been distributed all over the Middle East in recent years. Pray for fruit. (2) *Radio* — the most effective means of witnessing to Muslims in many areas. There are studios for the production of programs in Spain, France, Lebanon for broadcasting by Trans World Radio in Monaco and Cyprus, in Liberia, and in Seychelles. The response has been good, and very effective when able to be followed up by Bible correspondence courses and personal contacts.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When my life work is ended,
and I cross the swelling tide,
When the bright and glorious morning I will see;
I shall know my Redeemer
when I reach the other side,
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.
I shall know . . . Him, I shall know Him,
And redeemed by His side I shall stand,
I shall know . . . Him, I shall know Him
By the print of the nails in His hand.

WEEK FIVE

—Wednesday—

Where is my confidence? It is in the alert omnipresent personal interest of yourself. I have read your signs and I want to buy your product — even your deity!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He will not let your foot be moved, he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep” (Psa. 121:3,4). In each of these verses from the psalms we are seeking attributes of yourself for which we can praise you. The imagery in these verses is of battle. As the enemy approaches we need not be full of fear. We can be confident that we shall not lose ground. What is the source of our confidence? It is the alert omnipresence or intimate personal interest of yourself. This is a promise made to the whole “Israel of God,” or to the whole army of the Lord. Praise your name! We are no match for Satan, but you not only fight with us — you fight in us and through us. You never tire or lose your vigilance. Thank you for this blessed assurance.

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Just for me. If ever I needed such a promise it is now! There are days, and times in each day when it is easy to relax our guard. Dear Lord, remind me of Satan’s battle strategy. I do not want to be ignorant of his devices. Without your help I shall indeed be thrown to the ground and moved from my position of victory. Right now, for today, I claim your constant interest in the conflict. From time to time in this day may I catch a suggestion of just how you have helped me escape his awful thrust? Could I be helped to understand that my position was not won but by your help? Thank you for the desire to put on all your armor that I might be thus enabled to stand and not be moved. Praise you!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Ephesians 6:10-20 could well be a commentary on

Psalm 121:3,4. I have the promise of your vigilance while I take up the whole armor you have provided. I approach this passage in confession and repentance. How easy it is to forget my insensitivity to these burning words: “. . . against the *principalities*, against the *powers*, against the *world rulers of this present darkness*, against the *spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*.” This is almost too much for me to assimilate. How I need truth on a gut level. How I need to go with the good news. Unless my faith is active in the battle of life I am losing ground. Help me, dear Lord, I am one needy man.

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

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 we go.

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

HIS WORD

³⁸Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you.” —*Matthew 12:38, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It is with the purpose of asking we are concerned. Why did these Pharisees make this request? The next verse will tell us why they asked: They were evil and adulterous and only wished to trap our Lord by these words. We need to be very careful that we not condemn the desire for divine credentials. Our Lord did “many signs” and each of them was an evidence of his deity. These men had testimony, eye-witness

testimony of hundreds of signs our Lord had already given. Perhaps many of these teachers of the law had been present themselves. Jesus is going to say that there is a barrier that short-circuits the purpose of signs: it is sin! Moral failure shuts the eyes of faith.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

How often have we heard someone say: "I would believe if . . ."? Just suppose our Lord would have said: "All right, what sign do you want to see?" And then he had performed according to request, what would have changed in the hearts of these men? They could easily have argued among themselves that the request was somehow not what they wanted. The point is that if we (myself) do not *want* to believe we will not. It is with my unwillingness to submit to your moral code I find my problem of faith. It is in your life and teaching I find the substance for faith. Signs will *confirm* what I already believe. Dear Lord, I *do* believe. I want to listen and learn more and more!

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 our Lord is first of all and last of all a teacher. (2) Thank you that I can sit at his feet as a learner. (3) Thank you that Jesus knew we needed our faith confirmed and he therefore gave us many miracles to do it. (4) Thank you that Jesus can and does read the thoughts and intents of our hearts. (5) Thank you that my goal in life need not be: "*one more miracle*" — I have the greatest miracle in my Lord. (6) Thank you for the sign of Jonah — the resurrection of my Lord. (7) Thank you that the case is closed on his deity — all the evidence is in and a verdict is given — "He is declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:4).

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

" . . . we want to see a miraculous sign from you." What would the sign prove? If Jesus was the Sovereign God in human form or their Messiah, he would not act and react according to the beck and call of man. If he was not the Messiah a sign would only serve to deceive them. In either case, the request was out of order. Even if these men had not seen the many signs he had already performed they could talk to eyewitnesses who had. The number and variety of signs he had already performed was more than adequate to convince anyone who was truly serious about evidence. How careful we must be in our motives as related to the miraculous!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How this one verse calls forth requests in prayer! (1) The Pharisees were blind — open my eyes. (2) These men could not hear — open my ears. (3) These men must have had short memories — I do want to remember your power and love for me. (4) I want to see your signs as given by your biographers — that I might reinforce the faith I already have. (5) Read the motives of my heart and forgive me and purify my desires. (6) I need to be taught of you before I teach others. (7) I am so glad I have the product — even his deity — that all his signs advertised. Help me to appreciate him — even yourself — more and more.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In this one verse you can say several things I need to hear: (1) "Faith comes by hearing not seeing." (2) "Faith comes through the mind not the emotions." (3) "Faith that acts must affect the emotions."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Middle East — Points for prayer: (1) *Bible correspondence courses* have been used of the Lord to win more Muslims to Christ than any other means. This is especially true of North Africa, Turkey and Iran. Pray for missions involved in this ministry. This witness is subject to much opposition by Muslim authorities — postal censorship plus harassment of students. Pray for these students, that they may be won for Christ and brought into living fellowships of believers. (2) *Gospel Recordings and Cassette Tapes* are proving a splendid tool of evangelism and Christian teaching in regions that can never be visited by missionaries. (3) *Muslims in other lands* are more accessible — pray for all involved in Europe and North America. Pray that converts from this ministry may become effective evangelists when they return home.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

O could I speak the matchless worth,
O could I sound the glories forth
Which in my Savior shine,
I'd soar and touch the heav'nly strings,
And vie with Gabriel while he sings
In notes almost divine,
In notes almost divine.

WEEK FIVE

—Thursday—

You are even now surrounding us with your love and mercy — We are delivered of every evil — Keep your house clean and occupied by yourself!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even forever” (Psa. 125:2). This has always been a favorite verse as it describes the geographical advantage of the city of Jerusalem, and compares such with the advantages of your children. The more we look at the verse the more it becomes apparent to us. This speaks of your protection. Jerusalem did have a good natural advantage against the enemy but it was often conquered. You have offered us your protection — that we have been overcome is not due to the failure of our Protector. It was usually internal strife that overcame the city. Bless and praise your name we need never lose your strong defense. This is a collective figure, i.e., it speaks of protection for a city. Each person is as complex as a city; you offer a bulwark for all our many needs. What you do for one, you do for all, and so in a sense this is generic as well as specific.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Just for me. I like the fact that Jerusalem was (and is) a fine place for a view of the countryside. Not only are the mountains round about it — Jerusalem is itself on mountains. What a beautiful perspective you give to life! Everything viewed from the holy city looked different: (1) Praise you for the view of the nations of the world I have as I see them from your perspective. If Jerusalem (in this figurative sense) was to be the capital of the world how different is our attitude toward all the nations? You love them all — you want to protect and bless them all. (2) Calvary can be seen from Jerusalem. Just outside the wall was the place of the death of your Son. Here I can see the power and strength of your protection. Here I can see the means of fulfilling your desire for the nations of the world. I want to sustain a universal view of your presence and power.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

To leave Jerusalem is to leave my protection. Why should I ever want to step outside? Why leave the care and goodness of your love? It is because such love has become so common that we fail to appreciate what we have until it is gone. The history of Jerusalem is the history of forgetting. Dear Lord, I do not want to forget. How easy it is to relax in a knowledge that you care and all is well. All is only well when there is a watchman on the wall! Dear Lord, I want to set up a watchman for my time of prayer. I am so glad for the inward protection I find in this time with you. Forgive me for my failure to set a watch on my lips. The citadel of my heart must be guarded by your very presence lest I begin fighting inside the city. Deliver me, 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

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.

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

HIS WORD

³⁹He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹The men of Nineveh

will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. ⁴²The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.

⁴³"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. ⁴⁴Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. ⁴⁵Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation." —*Matthew 12:39-45, NIV*

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

It will be enough just here if I read and reread — and then read again the words of your Son. Whereas he applied them to the generation of which these Pharisees were a part I see many, many evidences of the same qualities in my generation. Speak to me, dear Lord!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

My Lord is saying that a different type of sign will be given — a sign to which all other signs will relate. "The sign of the prophet Jonah"! How wonderfully merciful was our Lord. He did not grant the request of these sign seekers and yet he did! He gave them promise of a sign that would convince all. At the same time, he warned that there was a deadly disease spreading in the hearts of men. And so it is today! My heart is not immune to this contagion. It is the terrible sin of *disbelief* not unbelief — he could deal with that — but blunt rejection of evidence — a stubborn refusal to accept the obvious. What a heart-break! The men of Nineveh did not do this, and Jonah did no miracles. This the queen of Sheba did not do and Solomon offered no sensible signs to convince her.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for our Lord's acceptance of the historical incident of Jonah and the great fish. (2) Thank you for the wonderful promise of the resurrection. (3) Thank you for the clear word of life after death found in our Lord's words here. (4) Thank you for the sober fact that men are morally responsible before you.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"And the final condition of that man is worse than

the first." This is the tragic conclusion of an uncommitted life. Jesus came to cast Satan out of the land — indeed out of his generation of Israel. If Israel would have accepted him the evil one could have been permanently removed. The miracles and teaching of Jesus *did indeed* make an impression, but most of the Jewish population were not ready to commit themselves. The deadly danger of an uncommitted life is in the fact that demons are not dead. It *is* possible to apostasize. How eternally important it is that we commit our lives to him. The commitment our Lord wants and deserves is in worship. Personal devotion is the foundation upon which all other relationships are built. I commit myself to prayer and the ministry of the word in fear of hell.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In our Lord's words to an adulterous generation there is much about which we can pray: (1) The reason for sign seeking was based in disbelief — guard my heart! (2) How I thank you for the sign of Jonah. I want to appreciate it more. (3) Thank you for my Lord's stamp of approval on the story of Jonah. May I be willing to listen to him first. (4) How I do want to change my thinking to conform with that of your Son. (5) Open my heart to the wisdom of yourself found in the words of your Son. (6) Fill up my life with your worship and work. (7) I claim your overcoming power in any efforts of demons.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In my Lord's message to this generation he also speaks to me: (1) "You need to repent each day — this is an attitude." (2) "I yet need men who will preach repentance." (3) "There can be no vacuum in deliverance from sin."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Middle East — Points for prayer; (1) *Unreached peoples* — many! Countless villages and towns have never welcomed a preacher of the Gospel; Muslim women in many lands are virtually inaccessible in their prison-like seclusion; the nomadic tribes of the deserts of North Africa, Arabia and Iran; the expanding student population; the expatriate Asian and Western communities, etc. (2) *Closed lands* — Mauritania, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, U.A.E., North Yemen.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread thro' all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

WEEK FIVE

—Friday—

Build my house dear Lord — or it will never be built! Awaken me to Satan's schemes. How wonderful to know I am a brother to your Son — you are my Father!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain” (Psa. 127:1). I love the blessed promise in this verse. Here is a plain, clear assurance that when we work you work with us, in us, and through us. I need to remember there is no sacred or secular work in your sight. You were with your Son when he made yokes for farmers, or houses for the residents of Nazareth as much as you were with him in his teaching on the hills of Galilee or the precincts of the temple. Unless you are made the superintendent of any and all our jobs we labor in vain. I go to work today with the calm assurance that I am a workman together with you in the task before me.

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. However well planned is a project, I will wait in vain for its fulfillment if you are not in it and through it from the beginning. “How can I find the will of the Lord?” is a question so often asked when all the time God’s will is being worked out in what we are and what we do. If we ask his presence — read his word, sense his presence in what we do his will is at work in and through us. We think we build the house — *wrong* — he built it through us. We thought we protected an investment — *wrong* — he protected it *through* us. I want to see again the twofold task of your will in this blessed verse: “. . . work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12b,13). Praise your name!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

My confession is so obvious. I have built many a house out of pure stubbornness. I could have cared less for what everyone thought including God! No wonder I was depressed when I finished. I have thrown up defences and become very negligent in my protection of some treasured city of my heart. Only to have the walls broken and the city destroyed. Dear Lord, I want to do nothing without you. I *can* do nothing without you. Forgive me for the times I have forgotten. Too many times it has been a willful lapse of memory. Forgive me! Ideals that are not given substance become nothing but idle dreams. I want tangible, nitty gritty, practical application of your presence in all I am and do.

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

Break Thou the bread of life,
Dear Lord to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves
Beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee,
O living Word.

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

HIS WORD

⁴⁶While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. ⁴⁷Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

⁴⁸He replied, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and

sister and mother.” —*Matthew 12:46-50, NIV*
 Read also *Mark 3:31-35*.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How very appropriate are these words! How often do we misunderstand our Lord and his purpose. We who are related to him and claim him as our Savior — and at the same time as our elder brother. He is the only begotten Son (i.e., in the unique sense of his birth), but we too are supernaturally born into the same family. We can so easily decide there is something unbalanced in the service he gives us to do. We are the body of our Lord, and he *does* work through us today. Here are some false rationalizations I have made: (1) He is making too much demand upon my time. He wants to dominate all my time. Does this make sense? (2) How is it that I am attacked more now by Satan than when I never served him?

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It is one thing to claim kinship with Jesus, and I do; it is another thing to realize that such kinship is conditioned by his words: “For whosoever shall *do* the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister and mother.” There are always well meaning friends and relatives who can tell us just what the Father’s will is for us. If we do not get our instructions from our Lord we can be sure it is not your will. How I *do* need to hear the word “whosoever” and apply it to someone besides my own little group. In the whole wide world whosoever shall do the will of the Father is my brother and sister.

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 respectful patient attitude of the brothers and mother of our Lord. (2) Thank you for our Lord’s willingness to cut earthly ties when they interfered with your will. (3) Thank you that Jesus knew ahead of time the purpose in the coming of his family. (4) Thank you that we can be the mother of Jesus — i.e., “Christ can be formed in us.” (5) Thank you that we can be a brother to Jesus and live in the same house. (6) Thank you that we can know your will and do it.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“ . . . he is my brother, and sister, and mother.” How beautiful is the thought that we can be as close to our Lord as his brothers and sisters were in Nazareth. Yea, we can be closer! What does Jesus mean by his expression: “. . . whosoever *does the will of my Father in heaven*”? He is saying his life ambition, his whole purpose was to fulfill his Father’s will in his life — all who have the same purpose are in

his family. However, it will be also easy to become as apathetic in this relationship as were his earthly brothers and sisters. They did not believe on him because of their familiarity. May we never lose the freshness and wonder of being his blood relatives!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Our Lord’s relation to his family teaches me about prayer: (1) Was Jesus insensitive to the needs of his family? — of course not! — give me his balance. (2) How could his family be so insensitive to Jesus? — am I in this class? (3) What an exalted value my Lord placed on our relationship with him. I do want to appreciate it. (4) How can I really *know* I am doing your will in my life? (5) Thank you for your imperishable word which contains all you want done in my life. How I need your wisdom in applying it to my life. (6) Give me the love that answers all problems of interpersonal relationship.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Did Jesus reach the hearts of his family? You can reach my heart: (1) “There are those who fulfill my will in their lives — seek them out and learn from them.” (2) “You must want me before we can be one in our purpose.” (3) “You are as precious to me as any son has ever been to his father.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

The Middle East — Point for prayer: *Lands with no fellowships of national believers* — Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Libya, Yemen (though in each are communities of expatriate believers). 15 of the 22 lands have less than 1000 national believers. There are probably less than 10,000 Christians in the Middle East converted out of Islam.

There is a great lack of Christian workers to use present opportunities to the full. The Middle East has the lowest missionary/people ratio of any major region of the world, yet it is the area most needing pioneer work. These lands continue to defy our Lord Jesus and we cannot remain complacent about this state of affairs.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

All praise to Him who reigns above
 In majesty supreme,
 Who gave His Son for man to die,
 That He might man redeem!
 Blessed be the name, blessed be the name,
 Blessed be the name of the Lord;
 Blessed be the name, blessed be the name,
 Blessed be the name of the Lord.

WEEK FIVE

—Saturday—

The words of the Psalmist are so true for our lives: "The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad." Here we can tell him so.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

"The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy! He that goes forth weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psa. 126:3,5,6). What powerful qualities of yourself are found in these beautiful verses! (1) You are interested in the success of your people. Success has become a bad word of late. When applied to what you do in your children, it is a delightful word. (2) If we sow your word in deep humility and sorrow (as we see the need of those with whom we work), we shall reap with shouts of joy! (3) To repeat the promise with enlargement: blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek in attitude as they plant your eternal truth in the hearts of men. They shall with no doubt come home with shouts of joy bringing their sheaves with them. The blessed harvest of eternal lives — people.

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 happened just last night; I could see a wonderful harvest in the lives of those who listened to your word. I can make the psalmist's words my words, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad." How I need to read again the conditions prerequisite to reaping! *"Those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy."* I do weep within for the obvious needs of men. But somehow I must identify much more closely with you as you see men. I rejoiced in the acceptance of your Son by a dear woman; I was happy as she was "baptized into Christ," but not as I should have rejoiced — there were no shouts of joy (inside or out). Dear Lord, I am so glad to find these blessed verses again and bow before you and allow them to find lodgement and growth in my heart!

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

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

How shall I respond to the following? (1) You have indeed done so many great things in my experience. My sin is one of blindness and ingratitude. I really do not see all you have done — some of the most important have escaped my view altogether. I do not have the depth of appreciation I could have or should have for those I do see. (2) My sowing of your seed has not been with tears — humility and meekness simply do not characterize much of my work. Dear Lord, forgive me. (3) My happiness at the salvation of men and women is not nearly as full of joy as it should be. I forget to see people as the eternal residents of heaven or hell.

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

More about Jesus would I know,
More of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fulness see,
More of His love who died for me.
More, more about Jesus,
More, more about Jesus;
More of His saving fulness see,
More of His love who died for me.

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

HIS WORD

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife

of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. — Luke 8:1-3, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

What a precious passage I find in these three verses! It says so much about my dear Lord: (1) He was involved in a very strenuous effort. To walk from one city and village to another and to keep this up for days and weeks — even months, was no little task. (2) He neglected no city or village. What an example for all us so-called preachers. (3) Jesus was a proclaimer — a preacher! He gathered all who would listen and spoke loud enough to be heard by all. What a communicator he must have been! (4) It was *good news* he brought: that God can rule in the hearts of men. Such is not many times communicated by us as "good news."

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Just for me. How I do hope I have represented your Son in the true light of what you have said through Luke. In this time I want to let you speak to me about these women that followed my Lord. These women (only three are named) followed him for two reasons: (a) They were so grateful for what he had done for them. They had been cured of evil spirits and disease. (b) They followed him because they had means out of which they could help him and his disciples. Does this say anything about women in your service today? Indeed it does! Women today are many times more grateful for salvation than men. Not one woman denied him — or left him. Women of means — and many who have but little have helped our Lord and his disciples when no one else did or could.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the example of energy expended in your service. (2) Thank you for elevating preaching to a place of prominence and importance. (3) Thank you for the systematic manner in which our Lord worked. (4) Thank you for the emphasis upon your rule in the hearts of men. (5) Thank you for the example of how to make preachers. (6) Thank you for the selfless devotion of these women. (7) Thank you specifically that Joanna and Susanna loved him and followed him. What a testimony to the power of my Lord to change all human relationships.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"These women were helping to support them out of their own means." It cost these women much more than money to follow our Lord. Such traveling interrupted whatever other schedule they might have had. Were the wives of the apostles represented in the little phrase "and many others"? The text does not specify.

Women were with Jesus throughout his whole ministry. Indeed, they were a very important part of all his life. The picture of devotion and love showed by the women is one we need to see again today. When Herod's household was opposed to our Lord's work it is amazing to read that the wife of the manager of the household has left all to follow him.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

This is a remarkable passage — it can teach us much. (1) There are villages in many nations of the world where the gospel would be good news — open my heart to know how I can help. (2) I do wonder how the apostles reacted to the preaching of Jesus — it is an example I want to follow. (3) Why did these women follow Jesus? It must have been out of gratitude and love. What an example they are to me! (4) Why were there seven demons in Mary Magdalene? Deliver me, protect me from demon attack today. (5) Joanna is such an unlikely disciple of our Lord. How I would like to know what led her to him. Deepen my humility and gratitude. (6) How could Jesus accept charity? Or did he? It took a degree of humility we will never know. How I love him for it.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Dear Lord, speak to me through these touching verses: (1) "The goodness of the news my Son preached has not lost its power." (2) "Demons are real today and attack people now. They cannot possess Christians." (3) "You can still support my service out of your means."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Algeria — Population: 22,475,000. Growth rate — 3.3%. People per sq. km. — 9.

Point for prayer: *The Government stopped renewing residence permits for missionaries in 1977.* Most of the missionaries have had to find secular employment in order to remain in the country. Both missionaries and unbelievers need wisdom in this tense situation. Much of the ministry of missionaries is in encouraging believers in personal contacts, little Bible Study groups and camps. Pray that they may have wisdom in their ministry so as not to offend unnecessarily, yet to use all possible openings to the full. Servants of God have wept for the yet unseen harvest of souls in this land. Pray for it!

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!