

WEEK FOUR

—Sunday—

“Awesome” is indeed a weak word to describe your greatness but it is all I have just now. Receive my worship!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works. He looks at the earth, and it trembles; he touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord” (Psa. 104:31-34). A rare joy is mine every day! I can come before you and think and pray once again. Just now I want to affirm with the psalmist my desire that all men for all time will know of your character as seen in your word, but more particularly in the face of your dear Son. May your glory endure forever.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

How I want you to be able to rejoice in the works in my own experience. The *one* most important question is: can you rejoice (with me) in this work? Your omnipotence is seen in the poetic expression of looking at the earth and it trembles — of touching the mountains and they are set on fire. Such a metaphor is related to this speck called earth in our galaxy; the same could be said of the galaxy itself. Awesome is a weak word to describe your greatness.

Singing and praising you is an obvious response to your greatness and goodness. One life time is not enough to express all you are and all you have done.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

“May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord.” Is it at all possible to rejoice in your presence and at the same time hold meditations in my heart that are not at all pleasing to you? To ask the question is to answer it. Dear Lord, forgive! The mind of man is an incredible computer! We can run

concurrent thoughts that are entirely contradictory with each other. In the triumph of evil — (1) the lust of the eyes; (2) the lust of the flesh; (3) the pride of life — there is the possibility of being tempted on all three fronts while at the same time lifting meditations to you. *However it is not possible to express with words more than one thought at a time. How important it is that much of my time be devoted to a written or audible expression of praise and confession before you.*

What personal sins do you want to confess? There is no one else you have sinned against more than God. Tell him so!

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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

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

HIS WORD

³⁷Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

³⁹Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.

⁴⁰When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

⁴¹Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!” —Mark 14:37-42, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Return again, oh Lord, to me. Speak to me in the experience of these three men! How could these men so miserably fail? They were weary — but so was our Lord. They were tired — but so was Jesus. They were weighed down with grief and disappointment. Did this experience throw Peter, James and John into a depression? Jesus used the name "Simon." It must have been a real flash-back to Peter. He is acting like he once did before he met Jesus. Our Lord *was* unhappy with these men. But he understood — and he kept their motivation for overcoming alive. He let them know he understood their need.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

The answer is in vigilance — i.e. Satan is always ready to trip us up. We *can* discern his moves. We need not be ignorant of the moves of the evil one. At the same time and perhaps concurrent with watching is praying. If they had done this they would not be asleep. The cause for failure is clearly stated: "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." The weakness of the flesh can ONLY be overcome by watching and praying. It is *not* wrong to make the same request — even using the same words — Jesus did it!

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the infinite patience and love seen in my Lord's words to these men. (2) Thank you for the clear example here that all who hear him do not understand him — we need as much patience as he had. (3) Thank you for the composite record of the three biographers — it gives such a full beautiful record. (4) Thank you that Jesus gave his disciples — even in this tragic hour — a little while to refresh their bodies. (5) Thank you for the foreknowledge of Jesus — but in it was the awfulness of the cup's content. Oh, how he loved you and me! (6) Thank you that the hour did come and he did die for me! (7) Thank you for the tremendous moral courage of my Lord — heard and seen in these words.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"*Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!*" We shall never read braver words than these. If any of us needs a hero (and all of us do) then here he is! Jesus knew his betrayer and was expecting him. Our Lord's vision was focused on the joy that was set before him, therefore he was now ready to endure the cross and despise the shame. He who knew no sin was now striding toward the sacrifice of being made sin that we might be declared righteous. Here was the just suffering for the unjust that he might bring us to yourself! No wonder we love him!

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In these dramatic verses we are driven to our knees in prayer: (1) Shock me into alertness by your words: "Are you asleep?" (2) Dear Lord, I have pledged myself to at least an hour per day with you — not that it makes me any better than anyone else — it is only a testimony of my own need — help me in developing this blessed time of personal worship! (3) Open my mind to know just how I can develop my ability to "watch" as you want me to. (4) Keep my feet from stumbling into temptations I can not handle — I can claim your promise (I Cor. 10:13). (5) Dear Lord, often my eyes (of my heart and body) have been heavy and I do not know what to say. Forgive me.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

These disciples never forgot your words to them — speak to me with the same impact from these verses: (1) "There is a time in the events of life when I must say 'enough!'" (2) "You have had almost twice as much time on this earth as did my Son — what have you done with it?" (3) "My betrayer is yet alive in the world today."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Points for prayer: (1) *The worldwide Islamic "revival"* has had its impact on Indonesia. Great efforts are expended, with some success, to Islamize animistic and nominal Muslims by liberal use of money and construction of mosques in every non-Muslim village and town. Pray for the 64 million uncommitted, nominal Muslims and animists that they might search for the truth and find the Saviour. Pray that the worldwide Islamic awakening may cause Muslims to re-examine their own religion in the light of the Scriptures — this *is* happening! (2) *The Muslim backlash* to the growth of the Church in predominantly Muslim areas has been marked by violence, looting, destruction of churches, and at times, persecution of Christians by some extremist elements.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known:
In seasons of distress and grief
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

WEEK FOUR

—Monday—

Hold your wonders before my dull memory! Awaken to me the reality of your power and Person.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, O descendants of Abraham his servant, O sons of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth” (Psa. 105:5-7). Charles Spurgeon has become my dearest friend in my worship of yourself through the Psalms. He has said so well: “Memory is never better employed than upon such topics: Alas, we are far more ready to recollect foolish and evil things than to retain in our minds the glorious deeds of Jehovah. If we would keep these remembrances our faith would be stronger, our gratitude warmer, our devotion more fervent, and our love more intense. Shame upon us that we should let slip what it would seem impossible to forget.” Amen! (*Ibid.* Vol. V, p. 43.)

Express yourself in adoration for this quality of God.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

The nation of Israel had much to remember. But we today as Christians are “the Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16). Do we have less to remember? Nay, more! Remember the wonder of God in human form dying to save a lost world! Remember over again every event in that blessed life given as an example for our living. Read again *this day* the gospel of Mark. It is not long. You need it for your refreshed memory. Call to mind every one of his miracles — and some of them colored dark with his judgments upon an ungrateful nation.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Can I bring myself to say with real meaning: “He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth”? Unless you can rule all the time you really do not rule at all. Is there such a thing as passive ruler-

ship in the life of one of your subjects? Must I *always* be aware of your rule? My problem is I have ears but do not hear, eyes, but I do not see. Forgive me. I want to open my eyes to see your judgments in all the earth. A judgment in the sense here has to do with a decree — if I will but consider the physical world about me I can see the irrevocable laws of yourself in operation. Do I imagine your decrees are less binding in the realm of the spirit? Forgive me!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

“Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!”

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord unto me!

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

HIS WORD

²Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

³So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

⁴Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

⁵“Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

⁶“I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷Again he asked them, “Who is it that you want?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁸“I told you that I am he,” Jesus answered. “If you

are looking for me, then let these men go.” ⁹This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.” — *John 18:2-9, NIV*; read also Matt. 26:47; Mark 14:43; Luke 22:47.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Had this man Judas learned nothing from Jesus? Judas was present in Gethsemane for the teaching and praying of our Lord. We agree with Hendriksen: “. . . Judas selected the most sacred night (that of the Passover), the most sacred place (the sanctuary of the Master’s devotions), and the most sacred symbol, a kiss” (*N.T. Commentary — John*, p. 379). There were many more in this group coming to arrest Jesus than we ordinarily imagine. A cohort of soldiers numbered 600 — although the term is probably used loosely here, so that we can translate it: “a detachment.” Nonetheless we could envision more than a hundred in this arresting body.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Imagine these men carrying torches and lanterns to find the light of the world! (*Hendriksen*) Here is a feeble crowd of ruffians set out to capture the King of Kings. The scene is impressive! Jesus steps out from among the grove of trees and presents himself in the open before them all. The episode of kissing described by the Synoptic writers is omitted by John. We are unprepared to say why. We cannot escape the poignancy of our Lord’s question: “Betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?” Ah, yes, we can and have! When our mind wanders at your table. When we spend *your* money for that which satisfies not. When we are carried away by Satan’s thoughts even in the midst of worship — yes, yes, with a kiss we betray 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 lesson we never seem to learn: association does *not* mean possession. (2) Thank you for the example of my Lord as One who often went to worship you. (3) Thank you that no force or forces of men can overcome my Lord. (4) Thank you for the preparation my Lord made for this hour. (5) Thank you that Jesus never gave up on Judas until Judas gave up on himself. (6) Thank you for the miraculous power displayed against the soldiers. (7) Thank you that no man took him captive — he gave himself to them!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“I have not lost one of those you gave me.” We have read this scripture before in an entirely different context. Before (John 6:39; 10:28; 17:12) in reference to

salvation in heaven. Here our Lord applies this same text to physical salvation from the opposition of Rome. How precious and meaningful! Our Lord *is* interested in protecting us here. He *is* interested in saving us from physical harm. We are not at all immunized against hurts here in this life. If, however, there is a purpose he has for our life — as he had for these twelve men, then his purpose will be fulfilled. I believe he has a particular purpose for each one of his followers. Praise his name!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How can I ask of him through these verses? (1) I want to renew my fellowship with you each day of my life. (2) Keep me aware that: “He always leads me in triumph.” (3) Open my heart again to identify the real weapons of my warfare. (4) I want so much the moral courage to be identified as belonging to you with anyone. (5) Twice over the soldiers fell on the ground — why? To teach them and us of the majesty of our Lord — may I learn it well.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Leave an indelible impression on my heart through these verses: (1) “I am still alive as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” (2) “I as the great high priest plead your case with your Father.” (3) “As THE prophet I know all things — trust me.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Points for prayer: (1) *There is considerable scope for Christian work*; even mass evangelism. Christians need sensitivity to make use of present opportunities to the full. The government has the unenviable task of preserving communal peace in the face of vociferous and potentially explosive Islamic extremist groups. (2) *Revival in Indonesia?* Praise the Lord for the work of the Spirit in the ’60s and ’70s in West Timor and C. and E. Java, and in the great cities in the ’80s. Evangelistic prayer meetings have mushroomed, evangelical groups and churches multiplied. Yet the need in most areas *is* revival. Nominalism, deadness in the churches, internal politics, divisions and carnality are still very evident.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Jesus, keep me near the cross—
There a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calvary’s mountain.
In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever,
'Til my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

WEEK FOUR

—Tuesday—

How important and precious we are to you! How can it be? It is because of your love and mercy! I gladly bow before you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.’ When they were but few in number, few indeed, and strangers in it, they wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another. He allowed no one to oppress them; for their sake he rebuked kings: ‘Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm’ ” (Psa. 105:8-15). In these verses there are several qualities of yourself for which I want to praise you.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

(1) It is so good to know you are One who remembers. (2) You want to enter into a covenant agreement with us. (3) We know without question that you will keep your promise — all agreements with you are: “yea, and amen.” (4) A thousand generations would not exhaust your faithfulness. (5) When you promised Abraham to make his descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven he had no child — yet it did indeed come to pass. (6) The land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob came to wonderful fulfillment in David and Solomon. Praise your faithful name! (7) Thank you for the lesson of faithfulness versus bigness — sometimes the two are not at all synonymous.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

It will be real helpful to relate the above seven points in your character to my failures and find forgiveness and strength for this day. (1) The one quality I need

the most (i.e. of remembering your goodness and mercy) I sometimes have the least. (2) I am hesitant to make an agreement with you lest I fail to keep my part of it — how little do I know of your *grace* — forgive me! (3) I have made and broken so many agreements I can not even number them — I am so glad it is your goodness that leads me to repentance. (4) How many generations in my own family will know of your faithfulness through me? (5) I want to believe on hope against hope just like Abraham — I fail here — forgive me. (6) How easy to give in to discouragement and call it “impossible.” Forgive me. I remember *nothing* is impossible with you.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely
And long for Heav’n and home,
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

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

HIS WORD

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.” Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹With that, one of Jesus’ companions

reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁵²“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

⁵⁵At that time Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. —*Matthew 26:47-56, NIV*; read also Mark 14:44-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:10-12.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I have hesitated long over writing anything on this text. It is most challenging to consider something written to you as an expression of worship. But this is just what I want to do. The greeting of Judas we have studied. The words of Jesus are perhaps as penetrating to the heart of this man as any found in the record. Luke says: “*Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?*” Matthew says: “*Friend, do what you came for.*” The element of surprise was transferred from Jesus to Judas. And yet he would not repent — dear Lord, how strong is Satan!

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Much of the above speaks to my heart — but just here I want to drop all pretense and identify with what I read: my Lord was interrupted in the midst of teaching his disciples to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinners. Jesus used the term “friend” in reference to his betrayer. Jesus will always be full of concern to win men back to himself. My Lord needs no defenders — he can handle every situation. The intention of Peter’s hasty action was more an expression of pride and self than defense of Jesus. The rebuke of our Lord seems to indicate this. How I need to remember defense and vengeance are in his hands — not mine.

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that my Lord is never taken by surprise. (2) Thank you that Jesus used all occasions to your advantage. (3) Thank you for the example here of how to react to hatred. (4) Thank you for the wonder of the miracle described here. (5) Thank you for Peter’s courage — no matter how misplaced. (6) Thank you for Jesus’ statement about the limitations of physical force. (7) Thank you for the reference to the angels who stood ready to help Jesus.

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“*Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?*” Jesus was indeed leading a rebellion against all the forces of hell.

But not a rebellion against the Roman government as the swords and clubs would seem to indicate. A wonderful revolution occurs in the life of everyone and anyone who yields to the Lordship of the Son of Man. Jesus used no physical force or coercion with anyone. We are in our day trying to face up to the destruction of the world by the 50,000 nuclear bombs we have stockpiled against each other. The principle of self-destruction here pronounced by our Lord was never more self-evident than right now.

READ HIS WORD FOR THANKSGIVING REQUESTS IN PRAYER

(1) Thank you for the revelation that Jesus knew the heart of Judas better than Judas knew himself — so does my Lord know me! (2) Thank you that Jesus did not refuse the kiss of the betrayer — but used it to teach a lesson. (3) Thank you for the fullness of the reports of this incident. (4) Thank you for the healing of the servant’s ear — it left Jesus free of any such action as perpetrated by Peter. (5) Thank you for the 72,000 angels at the disposal of Jesus for his protection. (6) Thank you for the constant reference to the fulfillment of prophecy in all the life of Jesus. (7) Thank you for this beautiful example of “laying down his life” for us.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I do want to relate these words to your word for my life — speak to me: (1) “What seems so spontaneous to you is planned by myself.” (2) “I can teach you today as I taught when I was here — if you have ears to hear.” (3) “There are some things I must do alone — but most of my work must be done through men like you.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Point for prayer: *The need for spiritual leaders of maturity for the churches has never been greater.* The pastor is of importance in Indonesian church life because the majority of Christians follow the Reformed and Lutheran tradition inherited from the Netherlands and Germany. The rapid growth of the church has far outstripped the supply of full-time workers. Some reckon 20,000 new leaders will be required before 1993. So pray for: a) *The rapid development of effective lay leadership.* There are only 10,200 trained pastors for 24,000 churches in the country, and most of the other 40,000 recognized leaders have had little training. b) *The widespread use of TEE programs.* Many pastors have had inadequate training and need to be retrained and fired with new zeal.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

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

WEEK FOUR

—Wednesday—

You are even now — right now at work in my life — how good it is to talk to the ONE who is in command!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He called down a famine on the land and destroyed all their supplies of food; and he sent a man before them — Joseph, sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true” (Psa. 105:16-19). The history of Joseph as found in Genesis is familiar to all of us. Here we can look behind the scenes and learn who directed this drama. You are always at work in the affairs of men. The text says very plainly that *you* sent the famine and destroyed all their supplies of food.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

What shall I say of famines in my own experience? I shall say: (1) you sent it; (2) you permitted it; (3) you used it. I do not presume to identify your work in my life. It is enough to know that you are in control of all things. You teach us through suffering. We could say that the best lessons we learn are through suffering. You gain our attention when you touch our bodies or our pocketbooks. A vindication of your own character is the one eternal purpose being worked out in all of life. Praise be to your eternal goodness!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Joseph was a good man, but he was not perfect! No doubt he could tell us much of his own imperfections. Dear Lord, I would venture to say I am so weak and vacillating that “bruised feet” and “iron on the neck” is about the most needed type of lesson for me. I have been but very recently delivered through such an experience. You are nearer and dearer to me than ever before. Like Joseph in prison I had indeed wondered when or where deliverance would come.

You promised me deliverance in as clear a promise as ever given to Joseph through his dreams. Forgive me for forgetting!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,
Were still in heart and conscience free:
How sweet would be their children’s fate,
If they, like them, could die for thee!
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!

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

HIS WORD

¹²Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.

¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.

¹⁹Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰“I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied.

“I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret.

²¹Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”

²²When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. “Is that any way to answer the high priest?” he demanded.

²³“If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” —John 18:12-14, 19-23, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

My Lord is arrested and bound — in such a little while it will all be over. It is in the middle of the night; what a ridiculous time to have a trial! The

preliminary trial was before Annas. Here is the head of the hierarchy of the high-priesthood. He had been high priest and five of his sons were high priests plus his son-in-law and his grandson. The people of Israel still considered him the wisest and most influential — hence Jesus is taken first to Annas. We are reminded by John of the words — prophetic words — of Caiaphas: “. . . it would be good if one man died for the people.”

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

As my Lord stood before this prominent man I want to share in the trial. Was it possible that Annas did not know of the teaching of our Lord? It is of course possible, but not very probable. Is it possible that we could be associated such a long time with Jesus and yet really never sit at his feet to listen to his teaching? Ah, it is both possible and probable! Dear Lord, open our ears. It could have been that Jesus knew Annas knew of his teaching and therefore answered him as he did.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the non-resistant attitude of my Lord — indicating he knew what was to follow. (2) Thank you that Jesus really never was captured or bound — he allowed it. (3) Thank you we have this record of those who lived and died so long ago — it helps us to see how very little men have changed. (4) Thank you that even my Lord did not take a slap in the face without saying something. (5) Thank you for the unanswerable logic of what he said.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” Why wasn't Jesus passive in this incident as he was later when others struck him? The answer is fairly obvious: he could help here by answering — later he could not. Our Lord was struck on the mouth because he addressed the high priest as a reasoning person and not an all powerful despot. Then in his rejoinder Jesus pushed the high priest and all others to tell him what was the matter with his answer. How wonderfully wise and patient was our Lord!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read these words again and pray with me: (1) Jesus really can never be bound — except in our place — move me to true worship before you. (2) Annas had known Jesus all the time from our Lord's birth until now — so had his son-in-law, Caiaphas. But such

knowledge had not changed their lives — how is it with me? (3) I want to renew my commitment to being a true disciple of my Lord. (4) Jesus believed that anyone could understand what he taught. Give me this same conviction as I try to teach others what he said. (5) May I be as open and candid as Jesus with those who question me concerning my faith.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Jesus spoke to Annas in a way he should forever remember — speak to me: (1) ‘I want to this day ‘speak openly to the world.’ ’ (2) ‘You are the mouthpiece for my message.’ (3) ‘Truth has no power if it isn't heard.’

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Points for prayer: (1) *The Chinese* are being absorbed into Indonesian society but are often unpopularly wealthy. A large part of the industrial, financial and trading world is controlled by them. The Chinese have been responsive to the gospel over the last 50 years, and now about 13% are Protestant (in Chinese and Indonesian-speaking congregations) and 6% are Catholic. (2) *The Transmigration Scheme* is one of the world's largest peaceful resettlements of people ever organized. Vast areas of virgin territory in Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Irian Jaya have been opened up for migrants from overpopulated Java and Bali. Pray that Christians among the migrants may be lights for the Lord in areas never before evangelized.

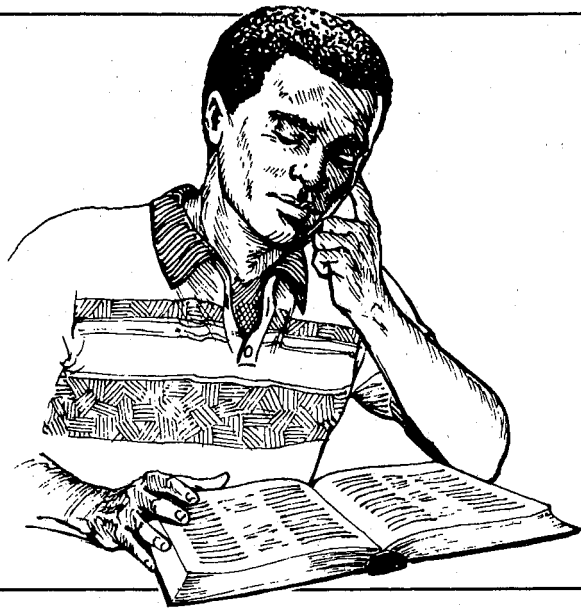
SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne:
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee;
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

WEEK FOUR

—Thursday—

I am twice yours — you created me as a spirit being — you bought me with such a high price. I gladly relinquish all myself to you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The Lord made his people very fruitful; he made them too numerous for their foes, whose hearts he turned to hate his people, to conspire against his servants. He sent Moses his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen. They performed his miraculous signs among them, his wonders in the land of Ham” (Psa. 105:24-27). What characteristics of yourself do I see in these verses? There are several: (1) You are still the creator of the spirits of all flesh (Num. 16:22). You sent every human spirit into the genetic combination of every mother and father. You indeed begin and end our lives upon this earth. (2) You are aware of our foes. They, in a sense, become also your foes.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

I want to continue this list and relate myself more closely. (3) You produce the environment out of which all that happens on this earth proceeds. You are not morally accountable for our hatred — we are — but you are very much a part of all that happens. (4) You have men and women called and chosen and sent by yourself. Since there are billions upon this earth you need millions of servants to call — choose and send. Praise your name! (5) The signs and wonders were of yourself — they belonged to you — not to Moses and Aaron. Through them but of yourself.

How do you personally relate to this quality of God? Speak it out or write it out.

CONFESSION OF SIN

I find myself as slow to see and believe as the rulers in Egypt. How easy it is to congratulate ourselves on our “good luck” and blame you for all “bad luck.” You sent both the good and the bad according to your own good pleasure. Deliver me from the terrible plague of humanism! When man becomes the center

and circumference of his own world he is miserable! Lift up my eyes to yourself the source of all I am or have. Deliver me from the tentacles of Satan. Keep me full of faith in your interest in man’s life. *In my life!* I believe you are at work even now!

What personal sins do you want to confess?

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

To Jesus every day I find my heart is closer drawn;
He’s fairer than the glory
of the gold and purple dawn;
He’s all my fancy pictures in its fairest dreams,
and more;
Each day He grows still sweeter
than He was the day before.
The half . . . cannot be fancied
this side . . . the golden shore;
Oh, there . . . He’ll be still sweeter
than He ever was before.

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

HIS WORD

⁵³They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together.

⁵⁵The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

⁵⁷Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.’” ⁵⁹Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?”

⁶¹But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶²"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶³The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. ⁶⁴"You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophesy!"

And the guards took him away and beat him. — *Mark 14:53, 55-65, NIV*; read also Matt. 26:57, 59-68; Luke 22:54, 63-65; John 18:24.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

I want to enter this text just as fully as possible — at what time was it? Early Friday morning on April 7, AD 30 between one and six A.M. The place was the palace of Caiaphas — not far from the temple. Peter and John followed and waited in the courtyard with the soldiers. There really was no trial, just a mock meeting to find some way to condemn our dear Lord to death. An accusation must be established by at least two witnesses. There was no lack of witnesses — they could not agree. Finally two of them did give testimony of something our Lord had said two years earlier — yet even they did not wholly agree.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It is important for me that I carefully read all accounts that I see the whole picture. It was here at last our Lord confessed openly before all "the good confession" — he wanted the whole world to know of his deity — of his Messiahship! When under oath my Lord identified himself as "the Christ" he added something that should make our hearts shudder: "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." When he comes it will be to judge all those who judged him. Can I lift my whole heart in the word: *Maranatha*, i.e. even so come Lord Jesus? Dear Lord cleanse my heart and my conscience!

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 very careful complete record of these blessed events. (2) Thank you that they could really say *nothing* against him. (3) Thank you for the wonderful united testimony in his favor. (4) Thank you that the prophecy of the destruction of the temple did indeed take place even as he said — and in three days he raised it up. (5) Thank you for the silence of my Lord before those who were to murder him. (6) Thank you that Jesus was here going to hell for me — i.e. tasting of death for every man. (7) Thank you this same Jesus is alive at your right hand.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, 'Prophesy!' And the guards took him and beat him." "And they said many other insulting things to him." We shall never be able to appreciate what such abuse did, not to the body of our Lord, but to his spirit. He had been up all night without sleep. He knew he was to be crucified — did he know that he would be thus treated before the agony of the crucifixion? Perhaps he did, but such would not lessen his suffering. This was somewhat the usual treatment of those who were already condemned to death. These men did not know Jesus — but Jesus knew them.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read these words and pray with me: (1) Keep me aware that there are men in high places who do not act at all in a rational manner. (2) I want to remember what a power hatred is. (3) Most of all I want to learn from my Lord how to react to such people. (4) These men lied about what our Lord said about his death and resurrection — but even in such a lie we can learn of your power. (5) As I read again the noble confession of my Lord's deity may I accept in my heart all its meaning for me. (6) May I be ready this day for the coming of the Son of Man!

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Jesus speaks eloquently even when he is silent — speak to me: (1) "I am standing on trial still before the tribunal of every human heart." (2) "I suffer more at the hands of those who know me and do not care." (3) "One day all will know me from the least to the greatest — and those who have pierced me."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Indonesia — Point for prayer: *Supportive ministries*: a) *Bible translation and distribution*. The UBS have 34 translation projects in Irian Jaya, and a program to publish common language translations in 12 major languages. *SIL* (that is, Wycliffe Bible Translators) has a growing team involved in 22 language projects, but there are over 300 languages requiring Scripture translation work. b) *Literature*. There is an insatiable appetite for good Christian literature, but too little is widely available at a price people can afford. c) *Christian radio*. *FEBC* broadcasts 108 hours per month in Indonesian and 30 in Javanese. The whole radio ministry could be increased and diversified.

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!

WEEK FOUR

—Friday—

Nothing was too good for the comfort of your people! Surely nothing is too good in worshiping you! I want to gladly surrender all to you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He spread out a cloud as a covering, and a fire to give light at night. They asked, and he brought them quail and satisfied them with the bread of heaven. He opened the rock, and water gushed out; like a river it flowed in the desert” (Psa. 105:39-41). The delightful expression of Spurgeon is: “What would not travelers in the desert give now for such a canopy? The sun could not scorch them with its burning rays; their whole camp was screened like a King in his pavilion. Nothing seemed to be too good for God to give his chosen nation, their comfort was studied in every way. While cities were swathed in darkness, their town of tents enjoyed a light which modern art with all its appliances cannot equal” (*Ibid.*, pp. 52,53).

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

It is my single purpose to lift my heart to you in praise for yourself. In answering the request for quail we remember it was out of a complaint for the sameness of the diet of manna. How infinitely good you were to your people. But even as you promised such meat would not satisfy. It became a temptation for self-indulgence. There was nothing lacking in the bread you gave from heaven — and ultimately Israel knew this. We have a thousand times more reason to rejoice in your provisions for our lives. We have always before us the bread and water from heaven.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

There surely is no problem in confessing our sins in association with the incidents before us: (1) We are not satisfied with your provisions so you permit us to have other things — when we have gluttonously indulged ourselves we know as Israel did that we have

poisoned ourselves. Dear Lord, how many times must this happen before we learn? (2) Your daily (even hourly) provision for our needs is consumed with hardly a thought for the giver — how terrible — forgive! (3) Even in our ego centered requests you give us water from the rock. But there is a penalty, Dear Lord, deliver me from presumptuous sin!

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

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Savior to me,
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.

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

HIS WORD

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard, ¹⁶but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

¹⁷“Surely you are not another of this man’s disciples?” the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, “I am not.”

¹⁸It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself. —*John 18:15-18, NIV*; read also Matt. 26:58,69,70; Mark 14:54,66-68; Luke 22:54-57.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

This full account of the first denial of Peter is given by one who was eyewitness to what happened. Just how John became known to Annas or Caiaphas we do not know. He was known also to the portress and Malcus; Peter was admitted to the courtyard because of John's intercession for him. Peter was uneasy and felt out of place — as indeed he was. How could Peter deny our Lord after all he had said about his devotion to our Lord? We had better look closely at this text (as indeed we are) lest we also fall.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Perhaps it was the suddenness of the question. Paul Butler gives us four very possible reasons. I want to read every one of these with my name upon it. (1) Over-confidence in humanness. What we affirm in the morning is often denied before the setting of the sun. Dear Lord, forgive! (2) Disagreeing with God's revealed plan. Peter had said, "It shall never be so with you" (Matt. 16:21,22). Am I ready to receive *all* you say in your word? (3) Ill prepared for the suddenness and subtleness of temptation. I believe it is here I am caught up most often — how I want to prepare myself even now for the next move of Satan. (4) Repulsed at the humbleness of his way. We just cannot and do not stand up to the pressure of the worldly crowd. Dear Lord look again into my heart!

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 courage and love that led Peter and John to follow him even in this crisis hour. (2) Thank you for John's influence with the high priest — such an example for me! (3) Thank you for the awkwardness of Peter — so true to his character — it says much to me. (4) Thank you for all the characters that played out this drama in the history of redemption — we can learn from each of them. (5) Thank you for the opportunity to learn from Peter's denial. (6) Thank you for my wonderful suffering Savior. (7) Thank you for the charcoal fire of the soldiers — our Lord is going to build another one for Peter on the shore of Galilee. Would Peter ever forget that fragrance?

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Peter also was standing with them, warming himself." Can we get inside the mind and motives of Peter and know just what he felt as he stood there inside the courtyard of the palace of Caiaphas? Of course we can not, but we can offer conjectures we believe are not far from the facts. Where was John who came in with him? Did John have access to the room where Jesus was being tried? We believe Peter

wanted to appear as inconspicuous as at all possible. He felt entirely out of place. Would someone recognize him as the disciple with the sword who cut off the ear of Malcus? At the same time he wanted desperately to know what would happen with Jesus.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Read these verses once more and lift your heart with me in prayer: (1) May I this day, and every day, follow my Lord even when circumstances are full of contradictions. (2) I am *so glad* Jesus knows what is happening — I do not — but I trust him. (3) I want to influence as many people in places of influence as I can — help me. (4) Keep me as open and candid with my faith as are some people of this world with what interests them. (5) Keep me aware that Jesus knows we have denied him — if we admit it — and if we do not admit it. Forgive me — and open my heart and mouth for him.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Surely Peter never forgot the words of this text — speak to me in it: (1) "I see you and your heart wherever you are — I see and understand." (2) "The devil's fire has no warmth." (3) "Blessed is he who stands not in the way of sinners."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iran — Points for prayer: (1) The 1979 Revolution has been a blessing in disguise. Islam has been shown to be a system worse than that which it replaced. Muslims are seeking answers. May the tragedy, hatred, cruelty, bloodshed and religious fanaticism open hearts to the Prince of Peace and doors for the gospel. (2) Since 1979 Irani Muslims have shown a greater response to the gospel than ever before. Disillusionment with Islam is muted, but widespread. In 1979 there were only several hundred believers from a Muslim background. The response has come from Iranis within and outside the country. Pray that these might be the first-fruits of an abundant harvest.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry
His army shall He lead,
'Til every foe is conquered
And Christ is Lord indeed.

WEEK FOUR

—Saturday—

You remember each of us — you know us better than ourselves! How could we fail to love you and worship you?



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people, come to my aid when you save them, that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may share in the joy of your nation and join your inheritance in giving praise” (Psa. 106:4,5). The attributes of yourself are evident in these two beautiful verses: (1) You know us and can identify each of us in your memory. (2) You want good things for your children — you have so arranged their lives that they may live in comfort and prosperity. (3) Our troubles are your troubles — when we hurt you hurt. (4) You do have a chosen nation — i.e. those who have chosen you.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

There is a real solid lasting joy in an acknowledgment of your plan and presence. The joy of the nation of Israel was in the physical prosperity they enjoyed in Canaan. The joy of the new Israel is in the realm of the Spirit. Can we pause long before each of these words and rejoice? (1) Justified; (2) Sanctified; (3) Redeemed; (4) Adopted; (5) Saved; (6) Forgiven; (7) Called; (8) Anointed; (9) Glorified; (10) Indwelt. There are two perspectives for each of these benefits in our relationship with you. We are justified from your perspective — we are justified from our perspective. In each of these words and our dual view of them the one predominant quality we can express is joy! delight!

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

This Psalm is full of confession of sin. If the qualities of the beginning verses of this Psalm had prevailed in the nation the remaining verses of sin and repentance

would not have been written. If we remembered him in an obedience to his will in our lives he would not need to remember us in judgment or punishment. In my confession to you I am not thinking of you as One who takes some sadistic delight in my mistakes, but as a wonderful Father who would gladly do anything to help me. You long to show favor and offer prosperity. It is not your will to condemn but to save, Blessed be your name!

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring!
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing—
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,
I’m standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I’m standing on the promises of God.
Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
Listening every moment to the Spirit’s call,
Resting in my Savior, as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

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

HIS WORD

⁵⁸A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”
“Man, I am not!” Peter replied. —Luke 22:58, NIV;
read also Mark 14:69,70a; Matt. 26:71,72.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

We want to concern ourselves with the three denials of Peter in as many days. This is the second denial. It was a servant girl who toppled Peter the Apostle! It possibly happened as it did because she said it in the

presence of the Roman soldiers — and all others who were there. Peter feared for his life. He was also very much confused in this dark hour. We do not excuse him, but we can understand. What would I have done in a similar situation? Perhaps not even as well. Dear Lord, speak to my heart.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Am I willing to suffer the ridicule and put-down that some people would give me? When physical torture is before me would I seek a way of escape or would I stand up and own his name? I'm not ready to say. I only say I want to develop such an intimate love for you that there would not be a choice to make. I want to decide in Gethsemane before I am asked in the courtyard of Caiaphas. All are such good words —but am I ready for Gethsemane? Considering some of my present day decisions I wonder! Dear Lord I am willing — give me a deeper willingness!

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 Peter's willingness to even be at the trial. (2) Thank you for the humanness of this whole record — it is entirely credible. (3) Thank you for the events that followed — I wonder if this servant girl ever became a Christian? (4) Thank you for the tender, reachable heart of Peter — in this I want to be like him. (5) Thank you that I can be "one of them" today.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"*Again he denied it.*" What was Peter thinking about as he warmed himself at the fire? Didn't he know what he did at the gate? Did he dismiss so lightly his words of denial that he would repeat them a short time later? After three years of constant companionship with Jesus how could he do it? Had Peter failed to hear the repeated promise of Jesus that he would rise again on the third day? We can ask all these questions in a rather smug feeling of pity or even condescension until we remember our own denials of him. What happened to our personal relationship with this personal Savior? Dear Lord, forgive *me* — not Peter.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

In the denials of Peter there are real reasons for prayer: (1) May I be as candid and open about my faith as others are with their lack of it. (2) I do want to belong to *him* (not them). (3) Keep me closer to you than the world in which I live. (4) I am so glad that I can pause in meditation and prayer and know

you are with me *right now!* (5) Deliver me from the particular overbearing temptation which could indeed become a denial of yourself.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

In the rejection of Peter speak to my conscience: (1) "Let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (2) "Peter is not the only one who needs sifting." (3) "Denial is never a necessity."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Iran — Points for prayer: (1) *The minority ethnic Christian groups* have not been singled out for harassment. Churches have continued to function despite fear and uncertainty, though many Christians are emigrating. Armenians and Assyrians are 95% of the Christian community, but most are nominal. Pray for a work of the Spirit in the Eastern, Catholic and small Protestant churches. (2) *The events of the last few years have dynamized many of the Protestant churches.* Low church attendances, personality clashes, lack of vision and witnessing characterized them in the past. Many Protestants have fled, but their numbers have been more than made up by conversions in churches that fearlessly preach the gospel. Christians have been challenged to stand for the Savior and have had remarkable freedom to distribute literature and testify. Pray for the many hundreds of seekers from non-Christian religions.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.
Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey.