

WEEK SEVEN

—Sunday—

I shall never be able to express adequately his justice — his faithfulness — his awesomeness, but I am trying! Gladly I try.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness. He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever — holy and awesome is his name” (Psa. 111:7-9). The multiple qualities of yourself are very numerous and evident in these beautiful words: (1) faithful; (2) just; (3) trustworthy; (4) steadfast; (5) eternal; (6) upright; (7) redeemer; (8) holy; (9) awesome. We accept the fact that behind every work is the worker; he shares the same characteristics we see in his works. I simply want to lift each of these attributes in praise before you.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

(1) When we use the word “faithful” in regard to your works we mean all your works are appropriate for their purpose — i.e. they fit or work. So with yourself. You understand perfectly our needs so your words and direction are especially appropriate to our needs. (2) We shall not be in your eternal presence 10 minutes until we are able to understand how totally *just* are all your decisions. (3) You are worth trusting because you keep all your promises! (4) How vacillating are we in our commitment to you and them! Dear Lord, forgive — but how eternally the same you are in all your ways. (5) We cling to this life — to this body as if we could live in it forever — why? Do we not believe only spirit is eternal? “Now to the king, eternal, invisible, the only wise God, be glory, praise and dominion forever!”

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Father — forgive the following sins: (1) I have listened to the doubts of the devil and hesitate in putting feet on my faith — I have not been as faithful as I expected of myself. (2) I can be most generous and

thoughtful with those I know and love — but such treatment has not been given to all — I am unjust — forgive me. (3) I am amazed at how untrustworthy I am in little things — those things that do not get public notice — forgive me. (4) I am sometimes much more “stuckfast” than “steadfast” — my own stubbornness has often hindered me — forgive. (5) I deal in the temporal and illusive — when I know eternal matters deserve my attention. In all these things forgive me.

What personal sins do you want to confess?

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

The Church’s one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word:
From Heav’n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

HIS WORD

³¹Now it was the time of the Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³²The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” ³⁷and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.” —John 19:31-37, NIV

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

The "special Sabbath" was the one of the passover week since the passover was a seven day celebration. How scrupulous were these Jews in some matters — and how unlawful they were in others. In areas of form and ceremony they were careful — in love and compassion they were unscrupulous. Pilate must identify himself with our Lord from the beginning to the end of his judgment. We wonder what the governor felt when the request for breaking the legs was made to him? The breaking of the legs was such an inhuman cruelty. These soldiers who had often seen dead bodies immediately recognized Jesus as dead. Perhaps to test what was obvious one of them pierced his side with his spear. Here was the conclusive evidence of death: "water and blood."

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

What was happening in heaven as the dead body of my Lord hung on the cross? What were the angels saying? What was being said in hell while Jesus hung limp and dead on Calvary? Were angels weeping? Was Satan rejoicing? Most of all what is happening in my own heart as I contemplate the enormity of the transaction that took place here on Calvary? If there is not a radical change in my heart then for me he died and was dead in vain. Dear Lord, I want to present my body as your sacrifice in response to your sacrifice for me.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that I am 2,000 years this side of Calvary and I and all the world can live in its benefits. (2) Thank you that redemption can really have no time factor. (3) Thank you for the certainty of the death of Jesus — such gives much more meaning to his resurrection. (4) Thank you for the water and blood that flowed from his side — the fountain of cleansing for the whole lost world. (5) Thank you for the personal testimony of John as to the truthfulness of this record.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"They will look on the one they have pierced." The whole prophecy of Zechariah 12:10 is most provocative — it reads: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born." What an incredible fulfillment — at least from Mary's point of what happened at Calvary. From our perspective we too can share in such a promise. (Read also Deut. 21:22,23.)

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

If I ever need to pray in petition to you it is now: (1) If anyone needed a Sabbath rest it was the dying lamb on the cross — in your mercy you did give him rest — rest my soul in yourself. (2) How careful we are with some of your laws — and how terribly careless we are with others — dear Lord, forgive. (3) Reaffirm the reality — the amazing reality of the resurrection as I am here assured of the death of your Son. (4) Since "the life is in the blood" I do claim the promise of eternal life through his blood. Increase my confidence. (5) His body was broken — but not his bones — what amazing detailed fulfillment! Give me an even deeper appreciation of this fact.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to my heart from these beautiful verses: (1) "My love and concern has not diminished since Calvary." (2) "I am even now presenting my blood on your behalf in heaven." (3) "Look again upon the one you have pierced."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Japan — Points for prayer: (1) Student witness is a strategic ministry. There are some 950 colleges with two million students. National, foreign and associated staff are hard pressed to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities. Apathy, atheism and Marxist philosophy are widespread, but many students are favorable to Christianity, though commitment to Christ is a step that few are prepared to take. There is need for a witness in secondary schools. (2) Christian literature. A deep impact is being made by an increasing number of indigenous publishers, who are producing a growing range of better quality materials. Christian literature is said to play a part in 70% of conversions. There are over 70 Christian bookstores; there are also 90 publishers and 25 Christian presses. The Bible is the best selling book in Japan.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

My stubborn will at last hath yielded;
I would be Thine and Thine alone;
And this the prayer my lips are bringing,
"Lord, let in me Thy will be done."
Sweet will of God, still fold me closer,
Till I am wholly lost in Thee;
Sweet will of God, still fold me closer,
Till I am wholly lost in Thee.

WEEK SEVEN

—Monday—

Teach me in this time of worship to find delight in your commandments. Open up a new view of yourself.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; each generation of the upright will be blessed” (Psa. 112:1-2). We see the attributes of yourself in the lives of your children. There is something in your own character that calls forth praise. Indeed, indeed! There are ten-thousand qualities in yourself that call forth praise. There is also reason to fall before you in awe and wonder. In the communication you have given us in your word there are qualities that produce delight and happiness — what you have said results in such positive reactions. Praise your name!

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

All of us would like to believe our faith can be passed on to our children — at the same time we know such faith must arise within each person (our children included) or it is not there at all. We *can* provide an environment in which it is much easier to believe than not to believe. We relate such a provision and promise to yourself. How mercifully good you are to us. The “*might*” or influence our children have in the land we refer to the spiritual realm — although it need not stop there. Such blessings can continue through many generations. Thank you for these reassuring promises — I need them.

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

The exhortation to praise you is never given too often. How lax we are in this blessed practice. He always deserves praise — even when we forget to give it. It is good to be stirred up to give it. Dear Lord, I have acted at times as if virtue and praise belonged to

me instead of to yourself — forgive me! What a blessed verse is this: “We are his workmanship — created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10). A healthy fear or reverence for you is the beginning of common sense thinking. Forgive me for being so stupid so often. In speaking of the man who loves you from the heart we could say of him: “holiness is his happiness, devotion is his delight, truth is his treasure.” I am not that man now — but dear Lord, I *want* to be!

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

Take the name of Jesus with you,
Child of sorrow and of woe;
It will joy and comfort give you,
Take it, then, where'er you go.
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heav'n;
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heav'n.

HIS WORD

³⁸Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body. ³⁹He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. — *John 19:38-42, NIV*; read also Matt. 27:57-60; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-54

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

If Joseph and Nicodemus had not stepped forward to claim the body of Jesus, what would have happened to him? We are glad to meet these two unusual men. A good many details are given to us about Joseph: (1) He was rich; (2) he was a member of the Sanhedrin; (3) he was "looking for the righteousness of God" — i.e. expecting the Messianic rule; (4) he was good and righteous; (5) he had not consented or voted in the death of Jesus; (6) he was from the town of Arimathea — about 15 miles east of Joppa. His companion Nicodemus was equally courageous and full of compassion. I do want to know these men before I attempt to understand what they did.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It was a daring and bold decision to go to the governor and ask for the body — i.e. when the one asking was as prominent as he was. How did these two men get the body down from the cross? The amount of myrrh and aloes was enough to embalm the body of a king — 75 pounds of it! No expense or reputation was spared by this good man. How tenderly they must have handled the body of Jesus. The wrapping of the linen strips — the strong fragrance from the spices — the setting of the sun — all this and more must have made this a memorable occasion for these two men. We must not forget that there were also women who observed all that was done. Dear Lord, I want to be there!

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 daring courage of a rich man in risking his reputation over the body of one already dead. (2) Thank you for the love behind such a venture. (3) Thank you that after the resurrection there was no longer any reason to be a disciple in secret. (4) Thank you for the thoughtful evaluation Nicodemus must have given to his relationship with Jesus. (5) Thank you for the garden tomb — such a lovely place to be buried. (6) Thank you for the willingness of Joseph to give his tomb to our Lord.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid." We know from Matthew 27:59,60 that this new tomb in the garden belonged to Joseph. It had been carefully prepared at great expense for himself. What love and compassion this man had for our Lord. It is possible that there was room for more than one body in the tomb — such was the practice of that day. There is something beautiful about the garden-tomb setting. We would

like to believe that the garden tomb of Gordon's Calvary is where Jesus was buried and rose again — whether it is or isn't we know he arose and is alive forever more!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Lead me in my requests to pray in the presence of my living Lord: (1) I can learn so much from Joseph of Arimathea — he learned from Jesus in spite of his station in life. (2) Joseph feared men more than he revered yourself — deliver me this day from the intimidation of men. (3) Joseph was anxious to enter your kingdom — i.e. to allow the Messiah to rule his life — I want the same thing. (4) Joseph and Nicodemus must have agreed together in their plan to help Jesus — it was too little and too late for his life on this earth — but it fulfilled prophecy and was more than anyone else did. What can I learn from their example? (5) From these two prominent thoughtful men I learn much — open my eyes and heart.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I am listening — speak to me through these verses: (1) "The fear of men always works a snare." (2) "True love and worship is always costly." (3) "There is no need to doubt either my death or my resurrection."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Jordan — Points for prayer: (1) *Jordan is a haven of stability and comparative religious freedom.* Pray for the government and for the maintenance of that religious freedom in the face of rising extremism among some Muslims. Jordan is a key center for many Christian activities — language learning, literature preparation and distribution, etc. (2) *The Christian community* has been in steady numerical decline for years due to lower birth rates, high rate of emigration, influx of Muslim refugees, etc. Yet Christians are found in all walks of life and often in positions of great influence. Most are Orthodox, Catholic, or traditional Protestant. Most need the touch of God on their lives that the Muslim majority may be blessed through them.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

I've wandered far away from God;
Now I'm coming home;
The paths of sin too long I've trod;
Lord, I'm coming home.
Coming home, coming home,
Nevermore to roam;
Open wide Thine arms of love;
Lord, I'm coming home.

WEEK SEVEN

—Tuesday—

There is no light or darkness with you — except in our hearts. I am so deeply impressed to remember that you dwell in light. I bow before you!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever” (Psa. 112:4-6). What are your responses to the upright? You give him light out of darkness! Such is also true for the gracious for the compassionate and for the righteous. Do we really believe the promise made in these verses? Dear Lord, I do believe. I do want to be that man! You have laid down as an irrevocable principle that if we are generous and lend freely good will come to us — we do not believe this. Forgive us.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Am I ready to enter the world of light and goodness? Am I ready to believe I shall never be shaken and be remembered forever? Such words sound almost absurd, and yet this is the most obvious application of the verses before me. Dear Lord, I am in a struggle of sight and faith. If my experience tells me it will not happen because I have not seen it happen then I have a real struggle in believing it would happen — even if you said it would. Dear Lord, I want to believe. I recognize the context of these verses — but if they were true of Israel in Canaan they are more true of the Christian in your church.

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

I could easily say, “I have not been upright or gracious or compassionate” — to say nothing of being righteous — no wonder no light has come out of my darkness! Such terms *must* be relative. Were all the

people in Canaan perfectly righteous or gracious or compassionate? Surely I, living in the sunlight of your love, as seen in the life of your Son, can express these qualities as well. Both of us will be saved by grace through our faith — but faith can and does produce works or fruit. Dear Lord, I want to apply these words to the nitty gritty of life. Just for today may I graciously do what is right. Just for today enable me to offer compassion to a needy situation. Break down my inbred selfishness and move me to be generous and lend freely! Forgive my resistance in these areas of life.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

Let me like Mary, through the gloom,
Come with a gift to Thee;
Show to me now the empty tomb,
Lead me to Calvary.
Lest I forget Gethsemane;
Lest I forget Thine agony;
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.

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

HIS WORD

⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there across from the tomb.

⁶²The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³“Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’”

⁶⁴So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

⁶⁵“Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶So they went

and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. —*Matthew 27:61-66, NIV*; read also Mark 15:47; Luke 23:55,56.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

How very credible is all the record of the gospel writers. It has always been a real amazement to me that these enemies of my Lord were more interested in his promise of resurrection than his disciples. Did the enemies listen and learn better than his followers? What of the “sign of Jonah”? And the “destroyed temple restored in three days”? These promises were “but dim to a crushed and wavering faith but were read, like fiery letters upon the wall, by the illuminating glare of an uneasy guilt” (*Farrar*). Pilate complied with the requests of the chief priests. All the government and religion could do to keep him in the grave was done. They indeed made the tomb as secure as they knew how.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It was sometime late on Friday that representatives of the Sanhedrin council appeared before Pilate. For Pilate it was “just one thing after another” when he thought of the strange prisoner he had just condemned to death. He just could not get him off his hands — even when he had already washed them. Dear Lord, I can never — will never escape you, nor do I want to. The sun has set — the darkness of the Sabbath is upon the earth. The body of Jesus lies dead in the sepulchre. Men and Satan had done all they can to get rid of him. It is Friday, but Sunday is coming!

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 completeness and details of this wonderful story. (2) Thank you that you furnished abundant evidence of his resurrection for all who wanted to believe. (3) Thank you that we live on this side of his death and resurrection. (4) Thank you for the testimony of his enemies that he would rise again. (5) Thank you that the power of death could not hold him. (6) Thank you that the seal of man and power of Satan has been broken.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” All tombs today seem to be very secure — i.e. they keep the inhabitants very secure. One day all who are in the tombs will be liberated even as was our Lord. Our Lord was raised by the Holy Spirit — i.e. so says Paul in these words: “. . . if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you

(Romans 8:11). So our tomb is no more secure than our Lord’s tomb. He is the firstfruit (like the first gathering of a giant harvest) of them that sleep. The only thing that goes into the grave is the body — our spirits go into the presence of yourself to return to the body at the resurrection.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I want to lift up prayer requests in the presence of death and the grave — what more appropriate place is there? (1) Dear Father, I want to remember at least as well as his enemies what my Lord said while he was still alive. (2) Give me enthusiastic patience in tracing every promise he made to rise again. (3) How could these men believe that Jesus was a deceiver? Guard me against the power of personal ambition. (4) Keep me full of appreciation for these disciples who struggled through the dark night of the loss of their Lord. (5) I am glad that when you seal me with the Holy Spirit of promise that no man — nor Satan (without my willingness) can break that seal (Eph. 1:12,13).

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to my heart from these verses: (1) “My body the church is still in this world — how will you treat it?” (2) “Right this very moment I see you and know your thoughts.” (3) “I await your prayers that I might make intercession for you.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Kampuchea (Cambodia) — Points for prayer: (1) The terrible genocide of 1975-79 haunts this tragic nation. The survivors are depleted and demoralized; widows and orphans are numerous. The people fear the return of the Khmer Rouge and see the Vietnamese as the lesser of two evils. Yet there is no freedom for the gospel, and the great majority have never heard of Jesus. (2) For centuries Buddhist Cambodia fiercely resisted the light of the gospel, yet since 1970 there has been an awakening. Between 1970 and 1975 the Church grew from 700 believers to 6,000. Most believers died in 1975-79, but some escaped to the free world. In refugee camps an ingathering of thrilling proportions has taken place. There are now over 200 Cambodian churches outside Kampuchea.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Christ, the Lord, is ris’n today, Hallelujah!
Sons of men and angels say, Hallelujah!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Hallelujah!
Sing, ye heav’ns; thou earth reply, Hallelujah!
Love’s redeeming work is done, Hallelujah!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Hallelujah!
Lo! our sun’s eclipse is o’er, Hallelujah!
Lo! He sets in blood no more, Hallelujah!

WEEK SEVEN

—Wednesday—

Security and steadfastness are promised to us in your presence. We do so need these qualities. I bow to receive them!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes” (Psa. 112:7,8). Once again we discover your attributes by the reactions of your children to your work in their lives. It is a joy to look at these qualities because I need them so badly: (1) You give resources we can use whenever we are disappointed. We need not panic no matter what the news. You have not promised to send us no bad news — but that we need not become depressed because you are at work in every circumstance of life to bring something out of it for our good. Praise your name!

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

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

(2) I can trust in your understanding — *not in my own!* This gives me peace and security. This also gives me a desire to continue in my resting in your interest in me. (3) There will one day be a time when we will look in triumph on our foes. So many of these foes are those I have invited into myself. Can I look in triumph even over these? Dear Lord, I believe it is even as you have said. I am not thinking of the eternal triumph of heaven, but of that which happens here and now.

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

Is it a contradiction to say that there are times when I fear bad news? I have learned that if I wait and not react at once I shall have your balance in how I relate to the negative. Dear Lord, forgive me for the times when I have immediately rebelled at your chastening. Forgive me for setting myself up as the lawyer, judge and jury in the “bad news” times of life. How I do

need the constant sense of security I can find only in yourself. Deliver me from malice and ill will toward my foes — I want to deliver *all* vengeance to 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

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

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

HIS WORD

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. —*Matthew 28:1-4, NIV*; read also Mark 16:1.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

“Mary of Magdala, and Mary the mother of James and John, had seated themselves in the garden to mark well the place of the sepulchre, and other Galilean women had also noticed the spot, and had hurried home to prepare fresh spices and ointments before the Sabbath began, that they might hasten back early on the morning of Sunday, and complete that embalming of the body which Joseph and Nicodemus had only hastily begun. They spent in quiet

that miserable Sabbath, which for broken hearts of all who loved Jesus, was a Sabbath of anguish and despair" (*Farrar*).

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

"Night passed, and before the faint streak of dawn began to silver the darkness of that first resurrection day, the passionate love of those women, who had lingered latest by the cross, made them also the earliest at the tomb" (*Farrar*). Before they arrived, the incidents of Matthew 28:1-4 took place. There were four women: (1) Mary Magdalene; (2) Mary the mother of James and Joses; (3) Salome, mother of James and John; and (4) Joanna. We emphasize: it was *before* they arrived that the earthquake and removal of the stone occurred. How I do want to see this as if it were happening before my eyes (and heart). The earthquake was local and happened simultaneously with the coming of the angel. We can even now watch the angel as he walks over to the large stone and rolls it back and sits upon 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 so much for the bright beautiful resurrection morning at the open tomb! (2) Thank you for Mary Magdalene the deeply grateful follower of our Lord — what an example! (3) Thank you for Mary the mother of John Mark — she made such an investment in her son to whom we are all indebted. (4) Thank you for the mother of James and John — the close followers of Jesus — but no closer than their mother. (5) Thank you for Joanna the wife of Chusa, Herod's steward. What did it cost her to be there that Sunday morning? (6) Thank you for every unnamed woman from Galilee who was also there that resurrection day. (7) Thank you for the love that drew them there to anoint his body.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men." We wonder many things about the angel: how tall was he? What did he look like, i.e. just like a human? What was the expression on his face? "His appearance was like lightning" i.e. sudden, unexpected, bright, overpowering. The whiteness of his appearance impressed those who saw him and told about it. There was *no* opposition — there were *no* questions. These soldiers, whose very lives depended upon their protecting the tomb, offered no resistance. It was not necessary to remove the stone to allow our Lord to get out of the tomb — he could appear and disappear at will. The stone was removed for the benefit of those who came to the tomb, men needed to see the empty winding sheets.

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

How can I best pray through these blessed verses? (1) I want to come at least once a week on every early Lord's day morning to the tomb of my Lord and marvel that he is alive right now. (2) Give me the daring devotion of Mary Magdalene. (3) I want the heart of lowliness and service that filled Mary the mother of John Mark. (4) May I live in the light of the supernatural today? (5) I claim the presence of ministering angels even this moment. (6) May the power and purity of this angel make a deep permanent impression on me.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

On this first resurrection morning speak to my heart: (1) "Every Sunday is another reminder of my triumph over death." (2) "Isn't the truthfulness of this story transparent?" (3) "Where is your exuberant joy? How can you be passive in the face of this tremendous fact?"

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Kenya — Points for prayer: (1) *Praise God for the great freedom to preach the gospel since independence*, for the receptiveness of the people and for the exciting growth of the Church. Three-quarters of the population claim to be Christian, and Christians are found in every stratum of society. Pray that present opportunities may be used to the full. (2) *The Protestant churches have grown fast*, and the proportion of Evangelicals is high. The East African Revival (1938-1960) made a deep and lasting impression on the Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches. A high proportion of church leaders have their spiritual roots in that movement of the Spirit. Legalism, divisions, materialism, and personality clashes have adversely affected this movement.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Low in the grave He lay — Jesus, my Savior!
 Waiting the coming day — Jesus, my Lord!
 Up from the grave He arose
 Death cannot keep his prey — Jesus, my Savior!
 He tore the bars away — Jesus, my Lord!
 With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
 He arose a victor from the dark domain,
 And He lives forever with His saints to reign:
 He arose! He arose!
 Hallelujah! Christ arose!

WEEK SEVEN

—Thursday—

You not only rule all creation — but all nations. What confidence this gives me as I bow in your presence!



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?” (Psa. 113:4-6) You are exalted over all the nations. This is both a fact and a promise. At this very moment you could call a halt to history. When you decide to send your Son and fold up this universe like a garment it will happen. Nations are given a choice and choose to ignore you. This does *not* mean that you have ignored them. You have a total omniscient view of all men in all nations.

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 am amazed that we can live so independently of yourself when we are totally dependent upon you. Only to man have you given the freedom of choice — it must be vastly different in the heavens — the angelic beings all have free access to some form of visual contact. They live by sight whereas we live by faith. What a different response to these beings give to your Person! If angels discuss the situation of men on earth I wonder what they say? Since they rejoice over one man who gets his eyes open to reality (called “repentance”) we truly are curious over what they think of billions who live and die in ignorance? Such is your realm and such questions can only be answered by you. It is enough for me to live in the light that falls upon my path.

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

How sorry am I that I live on a largely horizontal level? My thoughts and attitudes are confined to this earth — and too often are earthly. Am I forever go-

ing to stubbornly refuse the obvious? The invisible qualities of yourself are clearly seen — even your everlasting power and divinity — such are observed in the world about me. Dear Lord, open my eyes — break my heart — sensitize my conscience. The fact is that you *are* exalted above the nations — and will be so exalted, whether I believe it or not. I do *want* to respond to you — forgive my dullness.

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

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels, in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
“Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth.”

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

HIS WORD

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷“The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”” ⁸Then they remembered his words. —*Luke 24:1-8, NIV*; read also Mark 16:2-8; John 20:1; Matt. 28:5-8.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Have these words lost their meaning by their familiarity? No, no! Not when they are as true today as when the event occurred. Angels had a large part in the resurrection. No doubt the same heavenly beings are alive right now. How good it would be to be able to "replay" that early morning when "very early in the morning the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb." Perhaps I can engrave them on my memory and make them a permanent part of my heart knowledge — Dear Lord, I want to!

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Where is the deep compassion for my Lord, who is alive not dead, that filled the hearts of these women who came to the tomb? More to the point — where is the ecstatic wonder that dominated their whole lives from that moment on? Can I ever forget those words: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Dear Lord, "He is not here; he is risen!" It was so important to our Lord that his disciples remember his words — this is *just* what I want to do! There is only one thing more important than your written word and that is that the meaning becomes a living part in my own experience.

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you that there is a first day *every* week to remind us of that one wonderful day. (2) Thank you for the use of fragrances in the record of your dealings with man — they add so much to the beauty of life. (3) Thank you for angels who help us in ways we could never help ourselves. (4) Thank you for the heavenly surprises you are always giving us — if we only had eyes to see them. (5) Thank you that all that is alive and well and strong represents my Lord. (6) Thank you for the specifics of the text — "while he was still with you *in Galilee*." (7) Thank you that I can look up into your face and find intercession through my living Lord.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

"Then they remembered his words." Only when the application of your word to life becomes apparent is our memory jogged. What a principle to remember! In our teaching we need to use parables as did our Lord — i.e. tell a story that has real life meaning. If those who listen to me cannot see themselves in what I say they do not listen; they do not learn and my teaching has failed. Only when the example perfectly fits the situation does communication happen. The details of his crucifixion were all given — i.e. (1) "must be delivered into the hands of sinful man" (2) "be crucified" (3) "and on the third day be raised

again" and each of these was perfectly completed in fulfillment — so must the parts of our teaching.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

I am sorry to have almost completed every verse in the four gospels — it has been such a blessed experience — but I can find so many more areas for prayer than before I began: (1) Is there a better time to meet my living Lord than the early morning? I cannot think of one — may I keep my tryst with him! (2) Roll away the stone from the "dead-ends" in my life — I *know* you can and will. (3) Keep me "wondering" at your goodness and mercy that has followed every day of my life. (4) I am so glad that I can say of my Lord in the face of the grave and death — "He is not here, he is risen!" Keep my faith bright as relating to my own death.

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

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

The message of the angels needs to be heard in a very personal manner: (1) "Why do you look for the living Lord among the dead issues of this life?" (2) "He is not here; he is risen!" (3) "Please apply my words to your life."

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Kenya — Point for prayer: *Unreached peoples*. Probably about 12% of the peoples of Kenya belong to peoples little affected by the gospel, though only a few are unoccupied by missions: a) *The Somali in the N.E. and cities*. The five clans of Somalis are all Muslim. There are three small groups and 50 believers. b) *The pastoral tribes of N. Kenya* are predominantly animistic and nomadic. Pray for the Boran 75,000; Samburu 73,600; Gabbra 32,000; Redille 21,800, and for the emergence of truly indigenous churches. c) *The Muslim coastal strip*. The Digo 160,000; Bajun 40,000; Orma 35,000 and Upper Pokomo 23,000 are all Muslim. The 220,000 Giriama are beginning to respond through the work of eight denominations, but the work is in its early stages.

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 SEVEN

—Friday—

It is a positive joy to review your mighty works on behalf of your people. I praise you anew in worship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“The sea looked and fled, the Jordan turned back; the mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs. Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water” (Psa. 114:3,4,7,8). “The Red Sea mirrored the hosts which had come down to its shore, and reflected the cloud which towered high over all, as the symbol of the presence of the Lord: never had such a scene been imagined upon the surface of the Red Sea, or any other sea, before. It could not endure the unusual and astounding sight, and fleeing to the right and to the left, opened a passage for God’s elect people” (Spurgeon).

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

Once again I am identifying the attributes of your nature through your works. What happened to Israel at the beginning of their deliverance happened again at the end of their journey. “Things inanimate are represented as imitating the actions of living creatures when the Lord passes by.” It would seem that the poet is almost frustrated at the lack of response from the living intelligent beings — so he will obtain an adequate reaction from the inanimate. At least the sea, river, mountains and hills will give him proper reverence. Dear Lord, I do not want to let the mute mountains and the senseless water take my place. I want to lift up my voice in praise at your majesty and power!

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

“From stone and solid rock he brings the spreading lake, the gushing springs.” Indeed he does! And yet

we are somehow strangely silent about it all. Are we so satiated by the fictitious sensationalism of T.V. and the cinema that we can not recognize the real thing? Has the god of this world so blinded our eyes and seared our conscience? Dear Lord, shock me into an awareness I have not had before. A child-like wonder would be the highest of possessions. Futility and depression are the fruit of the constant disappointment we find from the false promises of Satan. Dear Lord, deliver me!

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

O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

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

HIS WORD

²So they came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside.

He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes, . . .

—John 20:2-10, NIV; read also Luke 24:9-12.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Mary of Magdala acts impetuously in Luke's account. She sees the stone rolled away — and immediately makes up her mind that someone has violated or robbed the grave. She leaves the other women before the angels can explain to them (and Mary — if she hadn't left). How typical this is of some of my own hasty decisions. Peter and John leave the city on a dead run to check Mary's report. I am sure neither one of them was prepared for what they found. It was the appearance of the strips of linen and the burial cloth that surprised them. These were not thrown around the tomb, as they would have been if someone had stolen his body.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

Can I look over the shoulder of John as he looks intently into the tomb? John was the sensitive one who wanted to do all he could to help his Lord. If the body was gone he wanted to know why. When he finally stepped inside the tomb a light went on in his heart. Something wonderfully strange was happening. John did not have the confidence he had later — but there was an excitement in him that had not been there before. Even at this late date these dear men did not understand what Jesus had told them of his resurrection.

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 once again for Mary of Magdala — she is so real in her impetuous love for our Lord. (2) Thank you for Peter — his desire to know all he could of the safety even of the body of Jesus is full of thought for me. (3) Thank you for the disciple who knew our Lord loved him — he has taught me much. (4) Thank you for the race to the tomb — oh, how I want everyone to join this run. (5) Thank you for the details of his resurrection which when fully known convince the most skeptical. (6) Thank you for the faith of John — what an example!

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)” We need to look at this text over and over again. It is the scriptures that form the basis of our faith. Of course the persons mentioned in the text must become alive to us. We believe there is a form of bibliolatry in our day (i.e. the worship of the Bible) but far worse is the worship

of subjectivism, i.e. making our feelings the criteria of reality. It was for this very reason the disciples lost heart: they did not *feel* Jesus was going to overcome his death and burial — *they did not know the scriptures* — both those spoken by our Lord and those written by the prophets.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Oh, that I could but express requests commensurate to the tremendous truths of these verses: (1) There are many who have taken away our Lord — guard me from yielding to any one of them. (2) I want the unabashed courage of Peter — he *must* know about his Lord, regardless of the cost. (3) Give me the perceptiveness of John — what a thoughtful man he was! (4) May I be able to stand again in the open door of the tomb and declare “He’s alive!” (5) I do wonder just how the linen cloths or “strips” looked — regardless of the answer they gave evidence to John that no robbers had left them. Dear Lord, I also believe. (6) Send me to your word for all my spiritual understanding.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

Speak to me from these incidents: (1) “Life is seldom what you see.” (2) “Wait until my time and know the wonderful truth.” (3) “It is my word, first, last and always.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

Kiribati — Points for prayer: (1) *The once strong Congregational Church* is losing members and pastors to other Protestant groups and also to RCs, Baha’i, Mormons, etc. The theological college in Tarawa is not evangelical. Pray for a return to biblical preaching and NT Christianity to counteract nominalism and underlying power of the occult. (2) *Evangelicals are in a small minority.* Only on some islands of Kiribati are there evangelical congregations. Pray that every island may have a clear, resident gospel witness. Most needy are the migrant laborers on Nauru, outlying island groups and the little state of Tuvalu.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

Lead on, O King Eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home;
Through days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King Eternal,
We lift our battle song.

WEEK SEVEN

—Saturday—

I lift up praise — and more praise to you — I stand back amazed at your creative genius! Receive my worship.



PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness” (Psa. 115:1). What an eternal competition there is for recognition and honor. Man seems to be an incurable egoist. This is because he is created in your image with the capacity to create and produce. When once we have done something we want everyone to see it and appreciate it. Such is a natural desire (it is your own desire for what you have created) — but back of what we have produced is the One who has created us. Are we ready to say with Peter: “Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man to walk”? Give glory to God — It is indeed your love and faithfulness that has given us all we have.

PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE MEANS TO ME

Why should I honor you? *Because of your love and faithfulness.* Perhaps these are the two qualities that embrace and include all other characteristics of yourself. Your love is indeed “a many splendored thing.” “The night has a thousand eyes, and the day but one; yet the light of the bright world dies with the setting sun. The mind has a thousand eyes, and the heart but one; yet the light of a whole life dies when love is done.” We could say of yourself that there are a thousand qualities of yourself — but none of them live without your love — and your faithfulness. Blessed be your name — which is LOVE and FAITHFULNESS.

CONFESSION OF SIN

How hidden and subtle are the ways of the wicked one! We can actually offer lip service of praise to you but all the while seek our own praise. Dear Lord, forgive me. In what ways has Satan deceived us? In the very ways we use to praise your name he has used to gain praise for us: (1) Songs of love for the opposite sex have many times only a self-gratification purpose. We love others for what they do to or for

me. Can we sing a song of love to you for just what you are? (2) Words of praise for human accomplishments — when we know that all our time and energy and ability come from you. In this, dear Lord, may I turn the praise in the right direction.

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

SING A PRAYER TO GOD

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.

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

HIS WORD

... ¹¹but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹²and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “And I don't know where they have put him.” ¹⁴At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵“Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

¹⁷Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your

Father, to my God and your God.' ”

¹⁸Mary of Magdala went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her. —*John 20:11-18, NIV*; read also Mark 16:9-11.

READ HIS WORD TO HIM

Evidently Mary came to the tomb some time after Peter and John did. She must have stayed in Jerusalem a little while after they left. Some feel she even met them on their way back to the city. The facts are we just do not know. She is alone in the garden. Her crying is total — i.e. she is sobbing almost without stopping. She wipes her eyes and looks into the tomb. So overwhelmed is she with the loss of the body of Jesus that she is not shocked or seemingly even surprised to see the two angels in the tomb. Why did she turn around? Did the angels point her to Jesus? Did the angels bow in adoration when they saw Jesus? We wish we knew.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR YOURSELF

It is enough to know that she did turn — when she did she still did not know to whom she was speaking. This is the second mistake in identification in these verses and the third mistake in evaluating just what was taking place (she didn't stay with the other women long enough to hear the angel's message). We love our Lord more than ever when we know he was patient and kind and full of understanding with this impetuous woman called Mary. She is surely single-minded in her concern for the corpse of our Lord. She is due for the surprise of her lifetime!

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

READ HIS WORD IN THANKSGIVING

(1) Thank you for the personalness of my Lord's revelation of himself to Mary. (2) Thank you for the several qualities of Mary — her total sincerity. (3) Thank you for Mary's total newness of life. (4) Thank you for the tears of Mary — so easily touched was her heart. (5) Thank you for her single-mindedness as related to Jesus. (6) Thank you for the wonderful meaning of the name Mary gave Jesus, “Rabboni” — (divine) teacher. (7) Thank you that she was so eager to tell what she had seen and heard.

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

READ HIS WORD IN MEDITATION

“Jesus said, ‘Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father.’ ” This verse is but poorly translated in earlier versions. We are given the almost opposite meaning — i.e. “do not touch me.” Jesus is saying to Mary — “Do not now think that I have returned to stay here on earth — my mission is fulfilled here and I must return to the One who sent me — even my Father and your Father, my God and your

God.” Did Mary understand it all? We should ask “Did Mary understand it at all?” We know she didn't — but we are sure she trusted him completely.

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

READ HIS WORD FOR PETITIONS

Lead me to your throne of grace to lift up these words for petitions: (1) My eyes are so dry and my heart is so hard — how I do want to emotionally identify with my Lord. (2) Have I seen angels and like Mary did not know it? (3) Surely my Lord has been taken away by many forces of evil — I want to return again to the open tomb that he might speak to me. (4) I know you want to draw me out in a personal knowledge of yourself — I do want to follow your leading. (5) Speak to me by name in telling me you are alive today! (6) I am so glad you have completed the task of redemption — and I can share in your victory.

Right here add your personal requests — and his answers.

READ HIS WORD AND WAIT — LISTEN — GOD SPEAKS

I do have ears to hear and a heart to understand: (1) “I am speaking personally to you in every verse of these four gospels — but you must be the one to make the application of what I say.” (2) “You can say, ‘I have seen the Lord’ in many more circumstances than Mary.” (3) “Blessed are they who have not seen (personally, i.e. by sight) and yet believe.”

INTERCESSION FOR THE LOST WORLD

North Korea — Points for prayer: (1) *The leader of North Korea and his son* have been almost deified by adulatory propaganda. Pray that the time may soon come when the Lord Jesus may be openly worshipped rather than a mere man. (2) *Organized Christianity was destroyed by the Communists*. Yet in 1945 there was a large and growing Church with about 400,000 Christians. Nearly all believers were killed or fled to the South. Pray that the land may open again for the gospel. (3) *The Church in North Korea* is one of the most persecuted on earth. There are no known churches or pastors left, though government spokesmen admit to 5,000 Christians in the country. Pray for the secret Church in its long years of suffering. (4) *The gospel can only enter by ingenious means* — floating literature ashore from the sea, balloon packages by air, etc. The most useful is *radio*.

SING PRAISES TO OUR LORD

In loving-kindness Jesus came,
My soul in mercy to reclaim;
And from the depths of sin and shame
Through grace He lifted me.
From sinking sand He lifted me,
With tender hand He lifted me;
From shades of night to plains of light,
O praise His name, He lifted me!