Mark - Commentaries by Gordon Henry Hayhoe

"A Saved Soul, But A Lost Life": Selected Ministry from the General Meetings Oakbrook, Illinois July, 1986, "A Saved Soul, but a Lost Life"

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Taken from “Selected Ministry from the General meetings Oakbrook, Illinois July, 1986”

First of all, please turn to Mark 8:35: "For whosoever shall save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it" You can have a saved soul, but a lost life. It is my desire that each one of us would have not only a saved soul, but also saved lives. That is, lives that would be preserved for God's glory, so that the Lord Jesus will be able, in some little measure, to say in that day, "Well done." It is on my heart, dear young people, to continue on with Jonathan. I would like to read a few passages in connection with his later life. Turn to 1 Sam. 18:1:

"And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day, and would let him no more go home to his father's house. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. And David went out withersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants. And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and forward."

We find here another part of the life of Jonathan. It was very beautiful what was brought before us yesterday about the devotedness of Jonathan. We love to read about that part of his life where he was so devoted and faithful, and had such love for the people of God. But, because there has been devotedness in our lives in the past, is no assurance that the rest of our time will be for the glory of God. There has to be a constant going on, a constant looking to the Lord, or we will find that the battle is too strong for us. We can't handle it in our own wisdom or strength, and we need to be constantly dependent on the Lord.

I have watched the lives of a great number of young people. I have seen some start out brightly. But, as the trials of the way overcame them, they were turned aside. Many, as I look back, were so bright and happy, but there was not a continuance—a going on. And I am quite sure that when these meetings are over it is going to be for some of you like it was for the disciples when they came down from the mount, after that wonderful experience of seeing no man but Jesus only: they were immediately met with a difficulty they couldn't handle. There was a man who came with his child who had an unclean spirit; and they couldn't cast him out. The Lord Jesus has to say, "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Maybe as you have been in these meetings and heard the precious ministry of Christ, and heard those lovely things brought before you about Jonathan and his devotedness, there has been something stirred in your heart, and you said (and many of us, perhaps, were saying), "I want to live more devotedly for the Lord Jesus. He has done so much for me, I would like to live for Him." But I am going to tell you this, that when you leave this meeting, if that desire has been in your heart, Satan is going to try to bring something into your life that will be a test to you. It may even be just some person.

It seems to me that the particular snare in the life of Jonathan was his father. He should have known what his father was like. As was pointed out yesterday, every time Jonathan did something his father tried to get the credit. Yet Jonathan didn't seem to realize what his father really was. And, there might be some friend in your life; you say, "I know that friend hasn't been all that he should be; but I don't like to break that friendship." At the end of Jonathan's life, when he was slain on the mountains of Gilboa, David had to make a statement that seems to me to be very sad. He said, "Saul and Jonathan were not separated in their lives." Is there someone that is hindering you? They should have been separated. Jonathan was a man of faith; we will meet Jonathan in glory. But king Saul was not, even though he did put on a lot of pretense at times. He even was among the prophets prophesying on one occasion. So if you are going to live for the Lord Jesus, there must be separation. And it is not going to be an easy thing. It will be a path of reproach, a path of being a soldier, a good soldier of Jesus Christ. You will need the ammunition—that which He alone can supply—to handle the situations which you are going to have to meet.

In this portion we see a very bright event in the life of Jonathan. He had witnessed the victory David had won over Goliath the giant. I believe that Goliath the giant is a picture to us of Satan, and the Lord overcoming Satan's power at the cross. When Jonathan witnessed this wonderful victory his heart was stirred afresh—touched again; now there was one who should have, and who did, mean far more to him than king Saul, his father. That was David. And, I ask you this, dear young person, could the Lord Jesus have done more than He has done to win your heart and mine? His love could not do more, and would not do less! He gave Himself; "The Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me." The Lord Jesus gave Himself for you! When Jonathan witnessed this wonderful victory that David had won, there was something that stirred very, very deeply in his heart, perhaps more than ever before. It says, "The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul."

We have no doubt that David loved Jonathan; but here we find the response of Jonathan. And, you have no doubt that the Lord Jesus loves you—He gave Himself for you. But does this stir a response of love? I like that little expression in John's Epistle (1 John 4:17, marginal reading), "Herein is love with us made perfect." That is, when you love someone and you don't get a response, it is very frustrating. But when you love someone and you do get a response, there is a feeling of satisfaction—you love them, and they love you, and there is a response—you feel it. Isn't it wonderful that the Lord Jesus loves us so perfectly? and He wants there to be love with us—He wants the response to be produced in your heart and mine. On this occasion with Jonathan it was. But, as is often said in connection with marriage, "love

has to be worked at." It is true in marriage, and it is also true in our spiritual life; it is something that has to be worked at—never on God's part, for He loves with an unchanging love; but on our part, it is needful. But God does continually reassure us of His love. It is often at times when we least expect it that we find these reassurances of His love, and how beautiful it is to see them.

So Jonathan's heart was touched and he responds, and gives everything that he has to David. It says he gave his robe; that was his title to the throne. Next, he gave his garments; that which was his right. Then he gave his sword, for it was no longer necessary to defend himself; David was one who was well able to do that. Then he gave his bow; perhaps the bow speaks of distance warfare, that is, things which are not so close—a little farther off. (You know, none of us can see tomorrow; I don't know what is going to happen in your life tomorrow, nor do you know what will happen in mine. But the Lord knows. Will you put your bow into the hands of the Lord? Say, "I can't see where that arrow is going to fall, but I know my Lord does.") Then he gave his girdle; that which was the closest to himself, that touched his own flesh. He gave it all to David, and he wanted to be in David's company. This was indeed a grand start in his life; perhaps I should say a fresh start, for Jonathan had shown devotedness before.

But now, because he has this deep affection for David, Jonathan has to face a very difficult situation. Saul becomes very jealous of David. He doesn't like the idea that the women should come out and say, "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." He said, "they are giving far more glory to David than to me." He was jealous of David. Let me just say this: Do not allow that horrible weed of jealousy to grow in your heart! It has caused more trouble in homes, assemblies, and personal lives than perhaps everything else. Always, always, carry a forgiving spirit—no matter what anyone does, leave it with the Lord; He can straighten it out far better than you or I can. One of the best ways to get jealousy out of our hearts is to pray for the person that did the unkind thing. Just get down on your knees and start to pray; like Job, for God did not restore Job until he prayed for his friends. If someone has done something mean to you, get down on your knees and start to pray for them; you will be surprised; you won't be able to hold the bitterness any longer.

So, Jonathan loved David, but king Saul has this jealousy toward him and he eyed David. If we go on in the chapter, we see that David had to be very careful. It says in verse 5, he "behaved himself wisely." In verse 14: "David behaved himself wisely in all his ways." Verse 15: "He behaved himself very wisely." We do need wisdom to know how to handle situations that come in our lives. It is not easy. Often we just have to look up to the Lord and ask Him just how we should act in the situations that arise. I don't always know how to act wisely; but the Lord does! He invites us to come:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given to him" (James 1:5). Jonathan felt the need of it very, very much when he realized the situation there in the court, when Saul had these feelings toward David.

Turn to chapter 19: 1-7:"And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself: and I will go out and stand before my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee. And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good: for he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the Lord wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou rawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause? And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the Lord liveth, he shall not be slain. And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan showed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past."

Here we find Jonathan putting forth an effort to try and change the thoughts of king Saul toward David. But it was all in vain, he was an unregenerate man. Perhaps you may have that friend that I was speaking of before; you have gone and talked with that friend, and you have thought, "I am sure that he is changing—I am sure that she is changing—and I just don't want to break off that friendship." That was how Jonathan felt. But, down in his heart, he really didn't want to leave the comforts of the court of king Saul. And, perhaps there is something in your life, some thing that is holding you back from being wholly devoted to the Lord. You have, so to speak, recognized the wonderful work that He has done for you upon the cross of Calvary; you have said from your heart that you belong to Him, and that you want to please Him. But you still have something that you are clinging to—some friendship, or some thing, that is holding you back. Dear Jonathan thought that by talking to king Saul he would change him. And, for a time, it seemed that he had accomplished something, and that king Saul really did have a different attitude toward David. But king Saul was an unregenerate man, and there was no real change.

Now, turn to chapter 20:11-17: "And Jonathan said unto David,

Come, and let us go our into the field. And they went out both of them into the field. And Jonathan said unto David, O Lord God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about to morrow any time, or the third day, and, behold, if there be good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and show it thee; the Lord do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will show it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the Lord be with thee, as he /lath been with my father.

And thou shalt not only while yet I live show me the kindness of the Lord, that I die not: but also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house forever: no, not when the Lord bath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the Lord even require it at the hand of David's enemies. And Jonathan caused David to sware again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul."

David is outside, and he realizes the hatred that king Saul has toward him; but Jonathan doesn't seem to fully realize it. He thinks he may have effected some kind of a change in his father, and he says to David, "I am going to go and find out really what my father's attitude is." But he also asks David to make a promise that he would show kindness to his household afterward. And, I might just say that Jonathan seemed to forget this; because the very time that Jonathan was slain he had committed his child to someone who didn't know the heart of David. So, when the tidings came that king Saul and Jonathan had been slain on the battlefield, what did the nurse do? She took up and carried away his boy Mephibosheth from the very person who wanted to bless him. And that is how Mephibosheth became lame. True, in kindness David sought him out and brought him back, and placed him at his table, lame on both his feet. But, I believe, brethren, there is a lesson for us of the government of God in the family of Jonathan here. He didn't really give David the place he should have; and, think of him, committing his child to someone who didn't know anything about the love that was in the heart of David toward him and his household. What a sad effect it had on his household.

Now Jonathan is going to find out just what his father's attitude really was. Verse 25: "And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, even upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty." Verse 33: "And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David." Now Jonathan is going to find out what is really in the heart of Saul toward David. When he spoke well of David, and when David's seat was empty and he made excuse for him, then this bitterness comes out on the part of Saul, and he casts a javelin; not, in this case, at David, but at Jonathan himself. Then, Jonathan realizes exactly what the attitude of his father was.

So the Lord does allow situations that bring out the enmity of the world toward us. When that enmity comes out, what is our decision? Will we still walk with them, and say, "Well they are not so bad; there are a lot of nice things about them?" Even David could say that Saul was pleasant in his life. There were nice things about Saul; but Saul was an enemy of the Lord, and he was an enemy of God's king. So, we have to watch, dear young people. There is a verse that says, "I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts" (Psa. 119:63). If you have been following this story you can see the devotedness of Jonathan, how devoted he was to the Lord and to the Lord's cause; then how his heart was stirred by the great victory that had been won by David, when the giant was slain; how he then gives everything to David, and how he wants to speak for him. But there is one thing in which he is going to be tested: is he going to accompany David in his rejection? This was the great thing.

And this is the question in your life and mine: are we going to walk in company with the world? You say, "I love the Lord Jesus and I want to please Him. But, I can't give up and break with this little world circle in which I live. I don't think it is quite as bad as you are saying, brother Gordon; I think there are a lot of nice things about these people; yet you say that I should break with them." This seemed to be the conflict that was going on in the life of Jonathan. He loved David. But, was he going to accompany him? Someone has said, "He gave everything but his shoes." He didn't seem to want to walk with him. And, if you follow the Lord Jesus (as we had yesterday), it is going to cost something. You must take up your cross and follow Him; you must be willing to lose your life in this world. Was Jonathan willing to give up the comfort of the court of Saul in order to follow David to the cave of Adullam; to follow him when he was hunted on the mountain side? Or, was he going to say, "I'll just have some of these comforts, and I will just stay at home; but I will always be true to David in my heart."

Perhaps you are making that kind of a decision, "I will be true, but I don't want to give my all to the Lord Jesus; I don't want to really have to come out and follow Him fully." I ask you, is He worthy of it? Is heaven going to be happy for you? Are you going to have anything of the world there; anything of that which ministers to the flesh in that glorious place? No! In that blessed place Christ is all! Do you want to have a happy life down here? May the Lord grant that you and I would be content to give up, in order that we might follow the Lord Jesus here.

Verse 34, "So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame." Then he goes out in the field. He has made an agreement with David about the shooting of the arrows; but it was only to show David that there was no use for him to return to the court of Saul—he was unwelcome there. Now, verse 41: "And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded. And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, The Lord be between me and thee, between my seed and thy seed forever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city."

If Jonathan had any doubts about his father's attitude, now he knew. His father had tried to cast a javelin, and David had escaped. His father had then cast a javelin at him; he said, "If you are going to be a companion of that David, then you are going to have a javelin too." Now he has to make a choice: was he going to follow David, or was he going to go back to the city? It is a touching scene here-to see him go out there and talk to David, knowing that David was unwelcome in the court of Saul. They embraced one another; they kissed one another; they wept. But David exceeded, because David loved Jonathan far more than Jonathan loved him. Nevertheless, we do not find David reproaching Jonathan; he didn't say, "Why won't you follow with me into the cave of Adullam-the place of rejection?" If his love for David did not make him want to do it, David did not ask him. That speaks to my heart. God does not say, "You have got to do this, and you have got to do that." All He says is, "Is My love sufficient to draw you; is it enough to make you want to give up the world, in order that you might follow Me and be in the place where you can enjoy My company?"

There are some very bright points in the life of Jonathan; but this is a most sad point-to think that he knows now the whole attitude of king Saul, and he has to make a decision. He went back to the city; and David goes to the cave of Adullam, to be rejected with a few men who were content to share his rejection with him. What a choice! Dear young people, we are making choices constantly. There is no one who comes to this General Meeting who does not make some kind of a choice, some kind of a decision. You may go away saying, "Well, I do want to follow the Lord; but I do not want to break with all my friends." Or, you are going to say, "I want to follow the Lord; and, if it costs me a separation from someone that has been close to me, the Lord must come first. He has won my heart." The love of Christ constraineth us-that we should not henceforth live unto ourselves, but unto Him who died for us and rose again (2 Cor. 5:14,15).

Turn now to chapter 23:16-18: "And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth. And they two made a covenant before the Lord: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house." This is their last meeting! Jonathan knew that David was right, and he knew that he was making a mistake. It didn't seem to change his course, but he did have enough love for David to go out and find him there in the wood, and say, "David, I still love you." And David's love to him was still as great as ever; unchanged by all that had happened. Jonathan said, "when you come to the kingdom, I will be next to you." But he wasn't; he was dead! He lost that! "If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him." Every act in the believer's life has present and eternal consequences! This was a loss that Jonathan could never regain, because he had made his choice. You can see where his heart was, and where his conscience was-going out there and saying those words to David. But, David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

Poor Jonathan was hopeful that some how, some way, things were going to work all right; that when king David came to the throne, he was going to be next to him. But that is not the next page of the story. Turn to chapter 31:1, 2: "Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons." Doesn't it make you sad to read this? He had made a choice; he had opportunities; he had seen what was in his father's heart. He could have changed even when he went out to David in the wood,

and said, "David, I really made a mistake in going back to the court of my father; from now on I want to be with you." But he didn't. God gives us opportunities to turn back; and if you are going in the wrong direction, I beseech you to turn back; it is not too late. He had an opportunity there in the wood, but, "he went back to his house."

We set courses in our lives, we make decisions. And, how important those decisions are! I say to those who are growing a little older, for, as said before, I have watched a lot of young people: I have seen some start out so well. But then, when the real test came—a test of being alone, of not having a friend; a boy friend or a girl friend, or something else that they hoped they would have to make life easier—many, whom I love to think of as godly young people, turned back. Afterward, they couldn't change their course, it was set; it was in the wrong direction! O, how important it is that the love of Christ constrains us, and that we live for Him! We are going to meet Jonathan in glory. But I fear—I have to say—that a great part of his life was lost. I am quite sure that God does not forget the things that were for Himself, because He never forgets. It says, "God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name" (Heb. 6:10). He forgets our sins, but He never forgets the smallest thing we do for Him!

Now, turn to 2 Sam. 1:23: "Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided." Verses 25-27: "How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! 0 Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!" Here we find a sad note at the end; but also something that encourages my heart as I read it. Jonathan had made a choice; and, since they were not separated in their lives, they were not separated in death. Were there nice things about Saul? Yes, David could say that. But, they were not separated in their lives, or in death. So, Jonathan was gone, and David felt it very keenly. But the little bright spot that I think is so nice is what he has to say about Jonathan in the last part of verse 26: "Thy love to me was wonderful." That is one of the most thrilling expressions to me in the Bible. Whose love is he talking about? He is not talking about the love of Christ, the love of David; he is talking about the love of Jonathan. You say, "Jonathan didn't have very much love when he wouldn't even go to follow David in his path of rejection." But there was a great deal of love, and David had not forgotten it.

I say again, dear young people, the Lord is not going to forget anything you have done for Him—not the slightest thing, even a thought! It says in connection with the judgment seat of Christ, "Then shall every man have praise of God" (1 Cor. 4:5). That is in the portion where He is telling us that He knows the counsels of the heart. Even a good desire in your heart the Lord values—every little response! It is thrilling to me to hear David say that about Jonathan. He could have said, "O, Jonathan, you let me down; you were unfaithful to me." He didn't say that. All that was burned up, so to speak; but he picked out the little bit there was for him. Would God there had been more. And, would God there were more in your life and mine for the Lord Jesus. He gave everything for us. Nothing was too great for Him to give for us—He left His throne; He bore for us the shame of the cross; He bore our sins; He did everything that love could do! Hasn't He done enough to win your heart and mine? May the Lord grant that the decisions that are made here will be to follow the Lord Jesus; that we might not just be satisfied that we know Him as our Savior, that heaven is our home and that we are going to be with Him; but may we know the blessedness of living our lives down here in some little measure for that blessed Savior who loved us, and gave Himself for us!

Glendale Conference: 1982, The Lord's Appearance to Those After His Resurrection

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

I was wondering if we could just look for a short time at a passage in Marks Gospel, the last chapter. Marks Gospel and the last chapter, and the 12Th verse. After that he appeared in another form onto two of them as they walked and went into the country. Well, it was in particularly in connection with that little expression in another form. And what I was enjoying in my soul, my trust for blessing to others. Was the various ways in which the Lord appeared after His resurrection, and how that those to whom He appeared, each one had a different need. Everyone of us here in this company have a different need at this time. In our meetings we've been taking up about that blessed One who accomplished the work of redemption. The Lord Jesus is the one who had already done this, that glorious cry. It is finished, His precious blood. He had gone into death. He had risen again, and now he appears to his own, and he appears to his own as the one who has accomplished that mighty work. I trust each one of us here. Know about that mighty word that we can say the question of our sins has been settled. We know that He bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that He is delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification, but as we had in our portion in the second chapter of Hebrews, how much we need not only that mighty work, but He is the captain of our salvation, bringing many sons home to glory. Can I say again, each one of us have. Varied, indifferent needs, and so is the Lord appeared after his resurrection. I believe we could see how has he appeared to these different ones. He met their special needs. And He's able to meet the special needs of each one of us here. There are no two of us alike. There are no two of us who meet the same situations in life in exactly the same way. We're all from different families, different makeups. But we have one Savior. And He knows all about us. He knows our frame. He understand that. He knoweth that we are but dust. He counts the very hairs of our head. And he is concerned about everything that. How wonderful those words He careth for you. He has a special concern for each one, and let us each enjoy this. Just as the High Priest in Israel bore on his shoulders the names of the children of Israel, and also upon his heart and upon his heart. Each one of the names were upon different stones, because each one had a particular beauty and a particular need. Well, so as I said, it was just upon my heart this afternoon to notice some of the. Leads which the Lord Madden appeared to his own. Let's turn over to the 24th chapter of Luke. The 24th chapter of Luke and the 34th verse here they were talking about the fact the Lord was risen. The 34th verse saying the Lord is risen indeed and hath appeared unto Simon. Now God hasn't been pleased to give us any record about that time when the Lord appeared to Simon. It's merely stated as a fact. But I'm sure it's full of meaning to every one of us who know what Simon had done. On the very night. Lord Jesus was taken and carried by those soldiers back into Herod's judgment hall. And we know that sad thing that happened with Peter, so self confident, so sure that it would never happen to him, so that he said to the Lord that he was really the best disciple. The Lord had. He said all the others might deny the Lord, but not me. I'm the best disciple. I wouldn't do that. But the Lord had to allow Peter to discover. Within his heart, and there may have been things that we thought we wouldn't do, things that we thought that others might possibly do, but not ourselves. And oh, how treacherous our hearts were and are. Our brother told us and reminded us of that verse. The flesh profiteth nothing. And so this is very gracious to think that the Lord, as far as we know, the very first thing after he had risen from the dead, even before his appearance to Mary Magdalene. It seems to me that he probably appeared first to Peter, and why? Well, Peter might have thought, you know, that it was all up with him, but he had failed so badly that now surely the Lord would not have an interest in him any longer. And it might be there someone here who is thoroughly

discouraged. Some failure has come into your life, and as you have sat in these meetings you have thought, well, it's all right for other people, but I've made such.

My life I've so failed that surely I could never be any use. Isn't this very blessed that the very first appearance that the Lord makes is to Simon? Some have spoken about Simons restoration in various phases. That as soon as he had denied the Lord, the Lord turned and looked on Peter and Peter wept. He really didn't feel what had taken place when the Lord looked upon him. But now the Lord has accomplished that mighty work. Met Simon's sin and yours and mine because he bore our sins in his own body on the tree. Every sin has been fully met. There is nothing. I'm so glad the verse says the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse his Son, cleanses us from all sin. Because if it were not so, we might think there's something that has been missed, but not so all sin. And so when the Lord had accomplished that marvelous work, that glorious work, putting away sin by the sacrifice of himself, he first appears to Simon, who, as it were, bring before him a private restoration of which there's no record. And it's something, you know, that has to take place privately in our lives when we have failed and dishonored the Lord. It's a thing that must take place between our souls and Him, and that is to have it out with. Like Jacob who wrestled all night. And there is no real restoration until we have truly been before the Lord in his presence. Not only judging the thing, but the very pride that causes that failure. Because so often we need to trace back our failures to the root of it. There's something that caused it. self-confidence, pride, thinking we were better than others, thinking we wouldn't do certain things. Well, the Lord. Peer-to-peer was in a certain form and what was it the form of one of we read of in the 23rd Psalm. He restoreth my soul. What a blessed thing it is to know that there is one who is there at the right hand of God to restore. He's there as our advocate. And so I say before I go on, if there's anyone and you have sat in these meetings and you have sat here conscious of the fact that perhaps you feel. Haven't been seeking God's will in my life as our brother brought before us. It has been otherwise with me. I've been living kind of carelessly. I slipped and got away. Oh, how good the Lord wants to appear to you in a certain form, and that is as the one who is your advocate, the one who is in glory. Appearing there in the presence of God on your behalf to restore you. And what a blessing it would be. In these meetings, if he would appear to you just like he appeared to Simon, and there would be something take place in your soul that you would be truly restored after this. We know that there was a public restoration with Peter, but I don't speak of that particularly at this point, but rather the fact that he was personally and privately restored by the Lord appearing to him in that way. And so it tells us if we confess our sins, these faithful and just to forgive us our sins. And to cleanse us from all unrighteousness as He's there is the one who is our advocate. And I believe when it says if we confess our sins, it brings in the thought that we are upright before Him. We just poured out our hearts. We tell Him it isn't that we ask forgiveness because we could say that Scripture looks upon us as being forgiven as far as judicial. Forgiveness is concerned, but we will not enjoy governmental forgiveness until we have honed it to the Lord. We've had it out with Him, so to speak. So I believe we could say that this is the first appearance that the Lord made to his own. But now let's turn to John chapter 20 first verse. The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark under the sepulchre, and see if the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she run us, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. And now the 11Th verse. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping, and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre. And see if 2 angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus.

Lane And they say unto her, A woman, Why weepest thou? Jesus saith unto them. Because they have taken, she saith unto him. Because they have taken away, my Lord. And I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing. And knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus sayeth unto her, woman, why we bestow? Whom seekest thou? She's supposing him to be The gardener sayeth unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabonae. Which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my Father, but go to my brethren, and say unto them. I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God. Here we have the Lord Jesus appearance to Mary Magdalene, and I like to think of her in a way of being so lonely. It's true that the other disciples came to the sepulchre, but they went away. They had other interests, no doubt, but with Mary she was lonely. There was no one else that meant so much. Her and her life as the Lord Jesus and the Lord Jesus, as far as she do, had been taken away. And so there was a great loss in her life. Perhaps there might be someone here and you're thoroughly and utterly lonely. It seems to you that the bottom has dropped out of your life, and all the things that seem to make life to you are all gone. And so it seems to me that this was the condition in which Mary found herself. It's true. Disciples could go back and they could go to their own homes. But not so with Mary. She was lonely. She had no one else that would mean anything to her, so to speak. And so she stands there, weeping. Did the Lord care? Was he concerned about the fact that she was there, so lonely that everything that meant what was worthwhile in life had been taken away? Well, he did. And if there's someone here, I say who's like that. And maybe there has been a feeling of loneliness, sleep come over you. You may have been in the crowd. But there is, as a scripture says, there is a solitary way. There is a time when sometimes we do feel that there is no one that we can really turn to. But there was one. There was a person. And as we had in our meetings, he's a real man. He's a real man, a risen man. And now in the glory, she could talk to a person A. Who was a real person and tonight, this afternoon you can you and I can look up and say there's a man in the glory. There's one who's touched with a feeling of our infirmities who's concerned about everything. And it tells us here that she didn't realize that it was Jesus and he asked her why we could sell whom seek a cell and she said because. Whom seeketh thou? She's opposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him. And I will take him away. Sometimes I think that the reason that we are lonely is because we expected somehow that the Lord was going to turn this world into a garden for us. That after we were saved, it was just going to be a garden. And she supposed the Lord to be the gardener. Did you suppose that the Lord was going to remove all your problems and make everything nice for you in life, just like a pretty garden? Well, she supposed him to be that, but. She found out that he's the one who said, Mary, you have been looking for that here, but you're going to have to learn me, learn to know me in a new way. He called her by name. He said Mary, she recognized at once who he was. But the Lord said, as it was brought out today, don't detain me. But I want to tell you about a new relationship and I want your thoughts to be centered up there. And you know, we have that answer to our loneliness. There is one and he's gone up there. Did we expect him to make a garden for us down here? Did we expect him to remove all those problems and make life pleasant for us? I think we often have those kind of thoughts that after we're saved, you're just going to turn this world into a gardener. Let's not suppose him to be the gardener, but to know him as the one who's up there, who has gone up and has prepared a place for us, something far better than the best garden in this world.

Because he said, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God and your God. And as he said in the 14th chapter of John, I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go away, I will come again, not to make a garden for you down here, but to receive you unto myself, that where I am, there He may be also. What a comfort in our loneliness. There is a place coming. Mr. Darby, in that beautiful little hymn, said, Who shall to me that joy? Of Saint throng courts declare tell of that constant sweet employee, my spirit longs to share. We can be lonely even

in the crowd, because even people with the best intentions don't always understand us. They don't enter into our thoughts. But there's a man in the glory who does, who enters into everything about us. I say again, He knows us through and through. He counts the very hairs of our head and is concerned about everything in our pathway. And when we get there, we'll be in his presence. And it says his servants shall serve him, and they shall see his face. And his name shall be in their forehead. Have sometimes said that what every human heart craves is understanding and love. We can find it difficult to find understanding and love in this world. But in those courts above, how? How beautiful to be there. And it says about it, the street is pure gold, like on the transparent glass. Nothing hidden up there. Everything made known, and we shall know even as we are known. So what a future before us. Is there a lonely one? The Lord appeared to marry that lonely person. That one who was weeping, that one who felt the whole bottom had dropped out of her world, so to speak. And now said, Mary, you can't detain me here, but I'll point you up there. I'm not the gardener for this world, but I have gone up there. I'm going up there to prepare a place for you. Oh, what a blessed thing to know him then in that relationship. Well, that's the way I believe that he appeared to. Marry and then in the same chapter. 26th Verse. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and say us, say us, Peace be unto you. Then said he to Thomas, Reach it as thy finger, and behold my hands, and reach it as thy hand, and thrust it into my side, and be not faceless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord. And my God, Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed. Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. Thomas was full of goats. And you know we don't like to be honest and talk about these that are more like Thomas, and we like to admit that is, we do have doubts. And the Lord appeared to Thomas in a special way here. In order to remove those doubts. And you know, it's very blessed to see him appearing in this way. Thomas had not been present the time before when the Lord Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to his own on the 1St Lords day. Thomas was not present and it was very beautiful what the other disciples did. They went to Thomas. They didn't scold him for his absence. They didn't tell him that he was pretty wayward, that he hadn't been there with the rest. They simply went to him and said to Tim Thomas, we've seen the Lord. We've seen the Lord, and that was enough to touch the heart of Thomas. That was enough to make him want to be there. We'll never continue coming to the family if we're occupied with one another, but if we do see the Lord, if we are occupied with him, it makes it all worthwhile to be there because He is the gathering center. He is the one that we desire to see. And that real thing touched Thomas. Was it possible that he had missed such an occasion? They had seen the Lord. Well, Thomas hadn't come because he was full of doubt. And as I say. Maybe look in and we think of has so many doubts that can rise in our minds, doubts about all kinds of things and to get so discouraged about these things that we perhaps become careless. We think, oh, it's no use. I I don't find the help that I would like to get and it's really just going because other people seem to be enjoying the Lord, but I don't and you know, we can get very much like that, but the thought of seeing the Lord.

Thomas to be there and when the Lord came, he didn't wait for Thomas to say what was in his heart because the Lord knew all about what was going on in his heart. He knows all about what's going on in your heart and mine. He may not like to tell other people, but the Lord knows there's a verse that says I know the thoughts that come into your mind, every one of them. He knows all those thoughts and so. It tells us that when he appeared, he said to Thomas, preach it at thy finger, and behold my hands, and reach it to thy hand and thrust it into my side, and be not faithless and believe, but believing. Somehow I doubt whether Thomas really did this. I think just the fact that the Lord said it was enough. And he just said, my Lord and my God. And so it is when we have these doubts, and that's why. Think of us, it could just be some proof, something necessary to assure us so that all these things would be no longer faith. They'd be sight sort of everything cleared up by very good answers given to every doubt. But as far as Thomas was concerned, I say again, I don't very much whether he did put his finger into those marks or his hand into the Lord's side, but he looked into his blessed face and he said, my Lord and my God. That was enough. He was restored from those doubts and there may be someone here and you're perplexed, you say, or if I could only see. The Lord said, blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed. We have the witness that God has given of the Holy Spirit who has come down to shed abroad the love of God into our hearts to make real those things that we have not seen, and God can and does make those things. To us. And so perhaps this is another form. Maybe you need that form. Maybe there's been some doubt in your mind. You're ashamed of yourself. I've often been ashamed of myself at doubts that come into my mind. You're ashamed of yourself. But the Lord knows about them. And as it were, he stands before you and he says, I know all about it. I can answer all your doubts. Just just look at me. Look at those marks in my hands. Put your finger in if you wish to. He didn't need that. Saw the Lord, that was the answer. He appeared. He satisfied that poor Downing Thomas and gave him that assurance and that peace that he needed. And so we can find that in his presence too. Well then let's turn to the 24th chapter of Luke again, and we'll see another way that the Lord appeared the 13th verse. And behold, two of them went that way that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem, about 3 score furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened, and it came to pass that while they communed together and reasoned. Jesus himself drew near and went with them, but their eyes were holding that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these, that she have one to another as you walk, and are sad? And one of them, whose name was Cleopas answering, said unto him, Aren't the only a stranger in Jerusalem, and has not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet, mighty indeed in Word before God and all the people. And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel. And beside this, today is the third day since these things were done. 27th verse. And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them, and all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh into the village whither they went, and he made as though he would have gone further, but they constrained him. Abide with saying, abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them, and came to pass. As he sat at meet with them, he took bread and blessed it, and brake and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him, and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, I did not our heart burn within us while he talked with us by the way.

And while He opened to us the Scriptures, well, here we have the Lord appearing, and another occasion, and whereas we read those various forms in which He appeared, what was it in connection with these? Well, they, they were perplexed, and we're often perplexed. And the reason they were perplexed was the very thing that often perplexes us. We expected something to happen, and it didn't happen. What did they expect? Well, they expected that the Lord at that time would have redeemed Israel. He's going to in the coming day. But they expected that. Then. Have you often been perplexed like that? I have. I expected something to happen. I was sure that the Lord was going to do something and it didn't happen the way I expected at all. It's true that He's still in control and he's going to bring things about and his own way. But they were perplexed because notice the way they're, they're sad and they're saying, we thought that he would have redeemed Israel. Is he going to redeem Israel? Yes, He is. Has he done it yet? No. How long was about 2000 years since this took place. But he's still going to do it. God doesn't move on our timetable, brethren. We may be expecting things at a certain time, but God's time may not be according to our time at all. In fact, we might even plan something and desire something, but it's important that we desire only His will. I've

often had to say to myself. It says in first Peter chapter 5, casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you. But one is often noticed that the verse before is part of the sentence, and the verse before says, Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you. Why is it that that's part of the same birth? Well, let me put it this way. The reason that we find it hard to cast our care upon the Lord is because we find it difficult to accept things the way He has ordered them. That, I really believe is our problem. And I'm sometimes said to my say to myself, when something didn't work out the way I had hoped it worked. I've often had to say to myself, Now, Gordon, supposing the Lord came to you and said, you don't like the way I've ordered these things in your life, I'll change them. And I'll make them exactly the way you'd like them. I'll make them the way you think would be best. It's not my will for you, but I'll change them and make them the way you'd like them. Would I look up and say, well Lord, please do that because I really want them to be the way that I would like them? Or would I hang my head and say, Lord, just give me grace to accept thy plan the way thou has done it? Well, I believe that's why it says humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God. Is it hard to cast your care on them when you've said that? No, it's the most natural thing on earth. Once you've taken that place and acknowledge that His plan is right and best. As for God, His way is perfect. You'll be surprised how you can leave the care with Him. You can cast it upon him because you have bowed to His hands. These two were discouraged. They were perplexed. They were troubled because. Things didn't workout as they planned, but what did the Lord do? Well, he occupied them with the things concerning Himself. He brought before them how that all these things that had taken place were according to God's plan. The Scriptures had told this, and it had worked out exactly according to God's plan, not according to theirs. And so their heart burned within them. They they were so glad to invite them into their home and not only for a meal, but they said abide with us. They wanted him to stay and now he makes himself known. He appears to them. He answers all the perplexity of their heart by opening the scriptures and showing them. That their idea and their plan was not the best, but God plan was right and best. We're going to find that out someday too. When He unfolds our lives before our eyes, we're going to see the same. That His plan was best but even now our heart can burn within us as we see and that He is in control and He can enable us to cast our care upon Him. And now we find another occasion, the 36th verse. And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are you troubled, and why do thoughts rise? Arise in your heart. Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Handle me, and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see me have. And when?

And he showed them his hands and his feet, perhaps the way he appeared to them on this occasion. Was to banish their fear. You know, we can fear a lot of things too, Things that haven't happened, but we're afraid they will happen. Now we can live in a great deal of fear. And they were living in fear too. And even when the Lord appeared to them, they still didn't at first believe that it was really he who had come there. And you know, this is so, I say again with us. But isn't it lovely that He is the one? It says in John's epistle, Perfect love cast without fear. And when he made himself known to them, it is rather striking here that he says. But he revealed to them that he's a real man. He says, why are you troubled and why do thoughts rise in your heart? He shows that he's a real man. And he says not as in another occasion, my hands and my side, but my hands and my feet. I believe that his side brings before us the thought of redemption, but his hands and his feet bring before us his pathway here. Those nails in his hands and those nails in his feet were put there by men. That pathway in which he tried, as we sometimes sing, thy path, unheard by earthly smiles, led only to the cross. And so if you and I have some fear, there's one who thread the past before us, who experienced all the things that we're afraid of. They came to the Lord on one occasion and said get the oath for Herod will kill Lee and the Lord will reply was go and tell that box I do cures today and tomorrow, but the third day I will be perfect. In other words, the Lord Jesus wasn't afraid of anything that they could do to him. He was walking in the path of obedience to his Father. Truly he felt things. He felt things fully about his. His pathway here is a pathway for us to He'll never believe us nor forsake us. He cares for us. And so I say the Lord maybe wants to appear to someone. Maybe you're fearing something that's going to happen. You're afraid, but He appears to say peace to you. He wants to banish those fears. He wants you to be assured of His love. And He wants to tell you, I know all about the past. My hands and my feet are here to show you. That I know all about the past through this wicked world, this world where the Lord Jesus has been cast out. And so how precious to see Him appearing there to banish fear. Now let's turn to another one in Matthew chapter 28. 16 Then the 11 disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things. Whatsoever I have commanded you and law, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, or the end of the. Amen. Well, here we have another occasion where the Lord appears to his own. And perhaps I could speak of this occasion as bringing before us the blessedness of knowing the privilege of enjoying His presence collectively and enjoying His presence individually. I believe that's brought before us. We have seen in the other scriptures how the Lord appears to answer special needs that the disciples had. But here was a special need, perhaps a greater need than many, many Christians realize. Often when people are saved, they are told to go to the Church of their choice, but that will never satisfy an inward need. What will satisfy an inward need? Well, you know, there's no rest for the sole of the foot except in the ark. And until we have discovered how we can be gathered according to the mind and will of God, and according to His Word, they'll actually be no real peace in our souls, no real enjoyment of.

Presence, isn't it true when you speak to people and they talk about the various places where they go and you might say to them, why do you go there? Would you hear the answer? Well, because I believe the Lord is in the midst. Well, I haven't heard that answer. Usually from people they'll say, oh, it's a lovely group. They're doing a great work and I really enjoy the preacher there. He really gives out a good sound gospel and there's really a lot of. There's a lot of blessing there. You hear all about that. Why did the disciples come to this particular place? Do we hear of any souls that got saved there? Well, I don't know. Perhaps there were. But that isn't the thing that drew them there. It was the place Jesus had appointed them and that was enough for them. And you know, if, if there's a Christian here and you have just been going to the place of your choice, you're in a group because they're a nice group. Thank God. Every bit of gospel activity we praise the Lord for, every place where the gospel is told forth in sincerity and truth. But if you want to have peace in your soul, search the Word of God. And just as these disciples had to listen carefully while the Lord gave them instructions as to where He was planning to meet with them, the mountain where Jesus had appointed them. All they had to listen carefully and they had to put forth an energy to get there. But was it worthwhile? Yes. What made it worthwhile was not the beauty of the surroundings. I don't know whether it was a beautiful place. And certainly as far as the crowd that were there, those disciples just a short time before had forsaken the Lord and fled. So they were the wonderful crowd of believers certainly thought, why did they go there? It says they went there because it was the place that Jesus had appointed them. And if there's a dear soul here and you come to these meetings and you're seeking, I beg of you, not to get your eyes on the people, you may think, oh, it's nice to be in a crowd of Christians like this, but you're going to be disappointed. You remember when the Lord Jesus spoke about these things in the 6th chapter of John, and many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him. The Lord said to Peter, He said. To Peter, will ye

also go away? Peter said, To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life, and we believe in our sure that thou art the Christ. Did the Lord commend him for that answer? Have you ever been surprised the way the Lord answered him on that occasion? You'll notice that in the end of the sixth of John, if you look at it, the Lord's reply to Peter was, Have not I chosen you? 12. And one of you is a devil. Why did the Lord say that? That really puzzled me. When I read that, I meditated on it for a while. Why didn't the Lord say Peter? Well, I'm so glad that you're here because I'm here, but the Lord didn't. What was he really saying to Peter? Well, he said, Peter, you've had a disappointment. Quite a few of my disciples have gone back and won't walk with me anymore. But if you're really here because I'm here. Still, don't look on the crowd, because there's still another disappointment ahead. Who others the disappointment Paul Judas was in that crowd. And you know, if you just remain with the Saints because you think there's not going to be any disappointment, you're going to be have another disappointment. The Saints are going to disappoint you. I've disappointed my brother in times, but the Lord never will disappoint you. And so if you're there because he's there, by then it's all worthwhile. And so here these disciples came to the place Jesus had appointed them. And when they thought not one another, but they saw him, they worshipped him. But some doubted. I'm glad it says that, because, you know, if it didn't say that, I would think, well, there's no place for me. Because I'm afraid that my thoughts wander even when I sit down at the Lord's table, and things come into my mind that I wish didn't when I'm sitting right there. Well, isn't it nice that it says, but some doubted because the Lord's showing us. That is still wasn't the perfect group. They were there because they had come to meet the Lord, and when they saw Him, they worshipped him. And what was His answer to all his doubts? That seemed to rise in their minds? Not only Thomas here, but others too. Why does what does the Lord's answer? All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Any doubt come into your mind? Well, basically it comes from this. We're doubting his power because he could remove every problem from your life and mine if it was his will.

And if he's left that problem there, he wants us to learn something. He wants to make himself known to us as the dissolver of doubt, the one who can undertake for us in every problem. He may not remove the problem, but if we're just resting on this glorious, this wonderful truth, he has all power. If it were his will, he could remove any obstacle, any difficulty. And if he leaves it there, he has. Something for us to learn through it. He has something. And I'm sure that as we look back over our lives, we will say that we have learned many, many things of his faithfulness, of his goodness, of His grace through the very things that He has left. Peter, at least Paul would like to have had the thorn in the flesh removed, and the Lord could have removed it. He certainly had the power to take that away if it had been His will. But the Lord's answer was number, Paul, you're going to have it the rest of your life. I'm not going to take it away, but you're going to learn something through it. And it's going to be a blessing to you and to others. Because he said, my grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. And so here we find the enjoyment of the Lord's presence in a collective way. Not because it's a perfect group, not because we don't have doubts and all kinds of things that come into our minds. But we're in the presence of one who died for us, who is risen again, who is up there, a real man, and all power is given to him. Angels and authorities and powers are made subject to him. What a place to be gathered around such a one, while we waste the time of his return.

Des Moines Conference: 1976, Fellowship with His Own

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Mark Chapter. 16. And the 12TH verse. After that he appeared in another form unto 2 of them as they walked and went into the country. Well, it was just in connection with that little expression, He appeared in another form and thinking of how the Lord came to His own on different occasions, meeting special needs in the hearts of His people. On these various occasions, we think of that glorious work that the Lord Jesus had accomplished, that blessed finished work, and now. As the one who was raised again, how he delights to appear to his own. And meet their various needs. And as we look over the company this afternoon, we know that there are various needs and the Lord knows each one of our needs. Some may be in one particular situation or trial, some need encouragement, some need perhaps exhortation. And we find the Lord Himself the blessed example for us, meeting those different needs. In resurrection. Let's turn first of all, to the Gospel of John in the 20th chapter. And the 11TH verse. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping. And as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth 2 angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they said unto her, Woman, Why weepest thou? She said unto her, Because him unto them, because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself and sat unto him. Raboni, which is to say, master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended unto my Father, but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God and your God. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her. But here we find Barry, and she's weeping. Perhaps we could speak of her as one who had a sad heart. It seemed that all that she had counted upon in life had now ended in disappointment. The Lord was so precious to her. He had been taken away. And now she is full of sorrow. And it may be there are those here this afternoon. And perhaps they too are passing through times of sorrow. Well, the Lord knows all about every sorrow that tells us that when he wrote that letter to the Assembly in Smyrna, He said to them. Ye shall have tribulation 10 days now. That is, He had measured the extent of the trial that they were going to pass through. And if any of us are passing through sorrow or trouble, isn't it good to know that the Lord has measured it all? He knows all about it beforehand. So I knew all about Mary's heart, and its blessed to see the Lord, the One in resurrection, speaking to her. Now. There she was at the sepulchre weeping. She needed the Lord. He was the one who alone could comfort her heart, and you and I need Him too. In the trials of life, there's only One who can sustain us. The heart naturally craves affection and understanding. And she craves that. Affection and understanding, and she thought the Lord had been taken away. Where was it to be found, and where would it be for us if we didn't have Him? Well, she saw those angels sitting one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him. They had no answer. They couldn't help her. We may turn to ones and we think can help us, and we don't seem to receive an answer. We don't seem to receive that help, that understanding, that encouragement of what it tells us here.

She saw Jesus standing and knew not that it was Jesus. Hear the Lord Jesus was standing. And so it is, we can say He is standing by. He enters into. He knows the situation in which we are found. He is standing close by. Whether we perceive it or not, whether we realize he is there, He is there. And so she supposed him to be the gardener. He said to her, Why weepest thou? Well, is it possible for us to suppose the Lord to be the gardener too? Is it possible for us, when we get in trial, to think of the Lord only as the one who is going to lift us out of the trial and turn

life, if we might express it in this way, turn life into a pleasant garden? Well, I'm afraid it's often so that we think, Oh, if the Lord would just make this all pleasant, remove this sorrow. Me, all these tears and all these difficulties and just make life pleasant. I think we often suppose the Lord to be the gardener, but he wasn't, he said. Mary He, he answered her, He spoke to her and called her by name. And it tells us in the 10th chapter of John he calleth his own sheep by name. Oh, how lovely it is in different instances in Scripture to hear the Lord speaking to different ones and calling them by name. There was Moses keeping the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, and the Lord came and spoke to him. There was Zacchaeus up in the tree. The Lord came and spoke to him, and so it is. He delights to address himself to us, He said. Mary, she recognized that voice. You and I recognized that voice. It says my sheep hear my voice, and I know them. It says I am known of mine. And so immediately the Lord spoke, she recognized whose voice it was. But she turned herself and said unto him, Rabboni, which is to say, Master, Well, do we acknowledge the Lord as the one who is Master, who is in control in our lives? Do we give him that place of authority that he should have? Why, there's no happiness or blessing for us unless we own him in that place. Our brother has just been speaking to us in the young people's meeting about how the Lord has to pass us through so. Much now before we come to the point where we're fully yielded to His will. Here, when she hears His voice, her first response is Master. Oh, may the Lord grant that we may make Him the one who is Lord and Master in our lives. And then the Lord said, Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my father, but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my father, and your father, and to my God and your God. Well, notice that she had supposed him to be the gardener, but now the Lord, as it were, says to Mary, Mary, you're going to have to learn to know me. In a new way. I'm not going to set everything right for you as the Messiah. We know He will set everything right in another day and this earth. But now we see not yet all things put under Him. He's not setting everything right as we would like to have it. Now we must expect to see things get worse and worse. We must expect to see this world as the scene where we suffer tribulation. It's the Kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ. We wait that time, but as though the Lord points her up and said, Mary, I want you to know that your relationship, your home, your rest is up there. And isn't that what he does for us? When perhaps the tears come, perhaps the sorrows come and we feel, oh, if the Lord would just remove this difficulty, I would feel that he had come in and. Me in this problem, but perhaps he is saying to us. Why your home is up there. He uses various means, you know, of weaning us from this world. He doesn't want us to settle down. I believe it's something of the same thought that we have in 2nd Corinthians 5 where it says the Lord.

It says. From henceforth, no, we know man after the flesh. Yeah, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more. Now that is not as the one who is going to at this time set everything right, but we know Him as the one who is the head of new creation. Our home is there. If any man be in Christ, there is a new creation. And so how blessed it is, here was a lonely heart. Here was a sad heart, and the Lord points her upward. And what a relationship, brethren. Oh, when difficulties come to know that there is our God, He has all power, there is the One who is our Father, and we can look up and say ABBA Father, and count upon him. Well, I believe this was the way the Lord appeared to Mary. And comforted her heart. Now then, if we turn back to Luke's gospel. And the 24th chapter. The 24th chapter of Luke in the 13th verse. And behold, 2 of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem, about 3 score furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass that while they commune together and reason, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were holding that they should not know. Him And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these, that ye have one to another as ye walk, and are sad? And then passing on. In the 25th verse Then said He unto them, all fools, and slow of heart, to believe all that the prophets have spoken. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went, and he made as though he would have gone further. And they constrained him, saying, Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. Well here we find 2. Perhaps we could say discouraged ones. They had expected that the Lord was the Redeemer of Israel. They didn't understand the scriptures that told about his rejection and how He would have to go through all this. And so they were thoroughly discouraged. So discouraged that they had left Jerusalem and were on their Rd. down to Emmaus. And I suppose there comes such times with us when there is. Encouragement when things haven't worked out as we had planned. And we just say, I feel so discouraged, I almost feel like giving up. Well, here were two and they were discouraged too. And they were on their Rd. down to their home at Emmaus and Jesus drew near and went with them. And if there's anyone here this afternoon, you say, well, I feel discouraged too things. Worked out as I expected they would, and I do feel discouraged today. Let me tell you that this blessed Savior who spoke to Mary now is the one who, in another form, in a different way, is going along with these two. Perhaps we would have expected that He would have just left them to the fruit of their own choice, but not so. He goes along, he walks with them just like when those wanted to go to. And build a better and a larger place for themselves. And they said to Elisha, come with us. So he went with them. And then he was used in blessing for their restoration. And isn't it lovely that the Lord, even when we do get discouraged and perhaps are taking steps in the wrong direction, as our brother reminded us and the young people, the Lord still cares for us. He still has his eye upon us, but they. Realized he was there. And sometimes we're not conscious of the Lord's company. We're not conscious that He's with us. I remember a dear brother said to often help help me in my life. He said, I don't ask the Lord to be with me, but I do ask him for a sense of his presence. And we need to have that sense of his presence. Well, they didn't. And so the Lord drew them out. He got them to tell all that was bothering him.

Them and I've been encouraged by that verse in the Psalms that says pour out your hearts before him. He doesn't want us to just tell him everything. And so they poured out their hearts before him. Well, it's true that they needed rebuke and the Lord said all fools and slow heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken. They ought to have known. You might have said they they didn't need. Get discouraged, They should have known. Isn't it often true with us? We should know the resource we have in the Lord. We should know His faithfulness. We proved Him often in the past, but when fresh difficulties come, we are just like these two. We seem to forget. Well, He spoke to them, but He didn't only say all fools and slow of heart, He also made their hearts burn within them. And you know, if there's only a word of rebuke, why we might go away. Still further discouraging. But the Lord knew how to blend these things perfectly together. He could make their hearts burn and yet speak to them about what they lacked. And sometimes He has to do that to us. He has to speak to us about those things that are lacking in our lives, that are not right. But at the same time, what is it that draws us back? What is it makes us want to come back to Him? Oh, it's as we are occupied and say that in spite of it all. He loves us, Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever. Scripture says the love of Christ constraineth us, doesn't say the love of Christ should constrain us. It states it is an actual fact. Because just like a magnet, I wouldn't say a magnet should lift nails, I say it does. And the only reason that the nails are not moved is because the magnet is not close enough. That's all. But a magnet lifts nails. And there is enough in that precious love of Christ to constrain the coldest heart. Heard of a man who operated one of these large electric magnets that lift scrap steel, and he wanted to give a demonstration. And it was a Christian man. He wanted to show the power of the magnet, how it would lift up all kinds of rusty pieces of steel. How to lift up all kinds of bent and crooked pieces and then. Came to a spot where there had been a pile of steel, and he brought the magnet down, and here were little bits of steel

trampled under the ground, and the ground even popped open, and up came these little pieces. Oh, we get pretty trampled down sometimes, but when the love of Christ warms our hearts, why, What is the result? What happened? Oh, the Lord had appeared to them. He had made himself known, and as it tells us, He made himself known in the breaking. Of bread, that which undoubtedly spoke to their hearts. Although I don't believe it was an actual commemoration of the Lord, I believe it did recall to their minds what He had done on the night of His betrayal. And so their hearts are stirred, spiritual energies are revived, and they make a journey back to Jerusalem. They go back. He has appeared to them. Because discourages they were he cares. For them, that lovely verse we know so well in the 23rd Psalm, He restoreth my soul. And there's another little comment here in the 34th verse. Notice saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared unto Simon. And then if you'll turn over to John's Gospel, we read a little more about this 21St of John, 15th verse. And when they have died, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Ye Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith unto him again the second time. Simon son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yeah, Lord, thou knewest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time. Simon son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time.

Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord. Thou knowest all things. Thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him. Feed my sheep. Perhaps we could speak of this as the Lord. Restoring, restoring one who had actually failed. In the other case there was loneliness, there was discouragement. But here was a definite case of failure. Just think of what dear Peter had done, how he had denied his Lord at the very time when he ought to have had his heart's affection, such as in the deepest possible way that the Lord was going to Calvary. In order to save him, there ought to have been a stirring of his heart. But instead, dear Peter, he was allowed to see the weakness of the flesh. He trusted himself. We do the same sometimes. We say, like Peter all I wouldn't do that. I certainly wouldn't do that. I might do some things, but I wouldn't do that. That's what Peter said. And he thought that even if others did it, he wouldn't, he said. Though all should deny thee, yet will not I took a position. Being better than the other disciples, well, the Lord had to let Peter discover what was in his heart. And we have to discover even as Christians sometimes what is in our hearts. Oh, how sad it is when we have to discover it through a fall. How much better to discover it in in the Lord's presence. How much better when he tells us how weak we are to hang our heads and say, Preserve me, O God. For in thee do I put my trust. But I'm afraid quite a few of us have to learn it the hard way. And Peter did. And so, after the Lord had gone to death, settled the question of sin, glorified God. Now he has risen again, a precious savior. What is the first thing that he did? There was something, the Scripture doesn't tell us the details about it, but that little verse that I read in Luke says the Lord is risen indeed and hath appeared unto Simon. There must have been a little secret interview between Peter and the Lord. And you know, if there's something gone wrong in your life and mine, if there's something that you have that you know, it's not going to be right until you get right with the Lord. You've got to get right with him. And it's lovely to see. It doesn't say that Peter sought out the Lord, but the Lord appeared to Simon and that scripture, He restoreth my soul. Now there's an energy on the part of the Lord himself, because he wants your company and mine, and there's an energy on his part to draw us back. He allowed a trouble to come when Lot went down to Sodom and he was carried into captivity, and this ought to have been a voice to him. The Lord was speaking. The Lord had his hand in that, but it seems that Lot didn't learn by that. But the Lord appeared to Simon. And again I say, if there's anyone here, you know you've got away from the Lord, you know there's something that has taken place that has broken fellowship with the Lord. I beseech you to have a dealing with the Lord about that. He wants to restore you. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Well, perhaps we could. Speak of that as the private restoration of Peter. But there was also a public restoration because his failure had been a rather public one. There are some things that maybe are just between US and the Lord and that we can settle between ourselves and the Lord, but there are other things where the Lord has been publicly dishonored and the Lord had to publicly restore Peter. But isn't it gracious the way the Lord did it? He said come and dine. He wanted to show to Peter that he wanted his company. Just as it tells us in the 3rd chapter of Revelation. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will Sup with him and he with me. He wants our company. If you feel that something's come between you and the Lord, the Lord feels it more than you do, because He desires our company, I say.

So and Peter comes. Then the Lord said to him, Simon son of Jonas, lovest thou me? And he asked him this question. Three times. Why did he ask him three times? Well, I believe because Peter had denied the Lord three times. And it was necessary to go to the very root of it. Sometimes when we own things in our lives, we don't get to the root of them. And the Lord also added that little expression, Lovest thou me more than these? Why did he say more than these? Well, because that's what Peter had said. He had said, though all should deny thee, yet will not I? He had taken a superior place to the rest of the disciples, and now it's as though the Lord said, Peter, would you really say now that you love me more than the rest of the disciples? All Peter? Realizes that the Lord is probing to the very depths of his soul, and we're not truly. Restored until we got to the very root of this trouble. What is it? Has it been tried? Has it because we thought that we wouldn't do something, or we thought we were better than someone else? Well, the Lord has to go right to the root of it. While Peter might have thought it's all up with me, I can never be any use again. Or how often when we have failed, the enemy would tell us that it's no use, he might as well give up. But isn't it gracious that the Lord? In each instance where He speaks to him, He gives him a little charge. Feed my lambs, feed my sheep. And so is if we have learned something in the school of God. It ought indeed to humble us. We can't be in the Lord's presence without being humble. If pride is allowed in our hearts, the reason is that we're not consciously in His presence. It's impossible to be in the Lord's presence and not feel our own nothingness as a little hymn, we sang said. Oh, keep us love divine near Thee, that we are nothingness may know. And ever to Thy glory be walking in faith while here, beloved. Well, the Lord restored Peter, and Peter was used, as we know. He preached on the day of Pentecost. He wrote two epistles. The Lord restored him. Can I say again here is another way that the Lord? Appeared after his resurrection as the one who restores, and there may be that in someone's life here. Oh, may the Lord restore you. He wants your company. He wants to bless you. He wants to use you. There's only a little time as we look over the number that are here. What a blessing we can be in the assembly where we live. What a blessing we can be. Brethren, to other young people, if we're walking consciously in the Lord's presence, well, we have this beautiful instance brought before us. And in the 24th chapter of Luke again here. Or rather in John, I should say, if you turn over to John. The 19th chapter. Now the 20th chapter, pardon me, and the 19th verse. Then the same day, at evening being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut, where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus, and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when He had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. Here, perhaps, is a little instance of fear. They feared the Jews. Easy for us to be afraid of this world. The fear of man bringeth the snare, but the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. So here they were in fear, but nevertheless they were gathered together and often the realization of the character of the world is used of God to make us feel our need of one another and that can be a real blessing. I know when I was working and in contact constantly with the world, I found that I needed. Not that I don't always need, but I needed the meeting in a special way. And sometimes when I had to work in the evening, I would come to the meeting and go back. Can work again afterwards. And what a blessing I got. It was unpleasant to be constantly in the atmosphere of the world, but here there was a little haven, a

little place, and they came there, and it says they saw the Lord, and it says He showed unto them His hands and His side. I think this is most precious. His hands speak of that which this world did to Him.

They took and nailed him to that cross. And his side speaks of what he did for us. Redemptions, work accomplished. Oh, how blessed, we might say. Oh, when I think of what my heart is, because we were part of that crowd that cried away with him. How could he love me? Well, he showed his hands to show us what we were. That's what we were by nature part of that crowd that set away with Jesus. But he shows us his side and said. While I took your place, I bore the judgment, and His precious blood was shed to cleanse us from all sin. While the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So I say here was fear getting away from the environment of the world. They wanted to be together, and their hearts were blessed by being in His company. Let's turn to another one in the Gospel of Matthew. The last chapter of Matthew and the 16th verse. Then the 11 disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you always even. Even unto the end of the world. Perhaps in this little instance we have the Lord speaking to them about two things, about worship and about service. How blessed this is. There was a mountain where Jesus had appointed. In the other instance they went and the Lord came and appeared in their midst. But here we find that there had to be an energy of faith to discover and to be in the place where the Lord had appointed. And I'm sure He has given us direction in His Word where He would have us together. How He would have us together. Well, He followed this instruction the Lord had given, and they came to this place where Jesus had appointed him and they. Saw Him, so it is. He has marked out, as I say in His word, a ground place where we can gather around himself. For two or three are gathered together in my name. There am I in the midst of them, and so they saw Him. What was the result of seeing him? They worshipped him and I believe in the measure in which we saw the Lord in the midst this morning in that measure that there was worship in our hearts. If we just saw a nice company of brethren whom we loved and loved to meet together. It was sort of a helpful and invigorating, but it didn't call forth worship it seeing the Lord. It's seeing the Lord and brethren that's so important for us when we come together. Because whether there is 500 or five, if we're going to really be worshippers, we must see the Lord. They saw Him, they worshiped him. And So what is worship? Well, it's just the overflow of the heart in praise and worship and Thanksgiving, shall we say. In another way, it's presenting Christ in all the loveliness of his person and work to the heart of God. Oh how great a privilege it is. God delights to have us occupied with His Son and speaking well of His son. They worshipped him. I've often wondered about this little expression, but some doubted. We know from John's Gospel that Thomas doubted. Thomas said that unless he saw the marks in the Lord's hands, unless he saw the mark in his side, he wouldn't believe. He was one whom we often speak of as Thomas the daughter. But this passage tells us that some doubted and have often thought about this because some people are quite outspoken. We know the feelings that they have. We know the thoughts that go through their minds. They're willing to speak of them. But there are others, and nobody knows them but the Lord, but He knows them.

And as he looked over that little company, he knew there were some. That doubted, and shall I say this was this lovely occasion the appointed place, the Lord in the midst they could actually see him. Was there perfection there, and was there everything to be desired? No lovely grand occasion. No doubt that it was the right place, because the Lord was visibly there, but some doubt it. But some doubted, and it will never get a company of Christians that are perfect, but were gathered. The perfect Savior were gathered around the perfect Savior, and if we follow His word, we'll be in the place where He would have us around Himself. And well, the Lord answered all their doubts by this 18th verse. And Jesus came and spake unto them, and said, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Not one of us would doubt that the Lord has all power in heaven. We realize this. We're quite sure that when we get there, there's going to be a display of His power in all its fullness in that glory land. But. He said all power is given unto me in earth. There isn't a situation in your life, in the assembly where you are that the Lord isn't able to bring about the solution. And So what is it that gives peace to our minds? It's the knowledge that He has power, and that if we wait upon Him and seek to act in fellowship and communion with Him in obedience to His Word, we can count upon Him. He is faithful. He has all power. Is there a difficulty in your home? Is there a difficulty about your job? He has all power and if it was his will to take you or I. Out of the problem, He could do it in 5 minutes or less. He has all power. And if He leaves us in the situation, it may be that He has some exercise for us to go through, some way in which we have to realize our responsibility before Him, something that He has for us to learn in the difficulty. Because all things work together for good to them, that love God to them. Who are the called according to his purpose? Jesus came and spake to them, and it's just as if there was anyone here this afternoon and the Lord came right up and stood beside you, and he says I have a little message for you. All power is given to me in heaven and in earth. I think this is quite striking because wasn't He in their midst? But it says He came and spake to them, just as if he whispered an individual message in each ear who was present. There, and he wants to come and speak to you and to me and give us this word of comfort. And then he also says, Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, or as we have in Mark's gospel, go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, as we have in Luke's gospel, and ye are witnesses of these things. So there was the Commission that the Lord gave to them to be His servants, and this was from the risen Savior. He was about to go back to glory, and now He was commissioning them as to that which He would have them to do. Well, this was also precious, these different ways in which He appeared to a lonely heart. To one who was discouraged or two who were discouraged. To someone who has. Failed and he draws them back to accompany who had in fear gathered together to be together, so that they might be in the company of those who love the Lord. All these different ways and now disappointed place where He appears in their midst collectively. What? He's going to go away and he has gone away, Brethren, we can't see him face to face like they did. He can't come and appear to us like he did to them so that they could touch him so they could eat with him. No, but he has a little message for them before he parts from them. And this is what he said in. The end of the. Well, I'll read the whole 20th verse, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world or the end of the age. Another translation says, Lo, I am with you all the days. So we might say, Well, I just wish I could have those kind of experiences, that the Lord could come and talk to me like He did to them, but He went away.

But he said to them, I'll still be with you and all. May the Lord grant that we may know. What it is of it to enjoy His company, That same One who was there as the Risen 1 and who manifested Himself to His disciples for those 40 days, is the same man that's in the glory. He's up there while I'm talking, and He wears our nature on the throne. He enters into all that we pass through, sin apart. Oh, what a blessed one that we can turn to. May we realize is all sufficiency and that he knows about every need. And if you need him as a comforter, if you need him as one to restore you, if fear is coming to your heart and you need that little word peace, He has the message that suited to your need. And if you just live in his company, he'll speak that word when you need it for your good and for your blessing and. For His own glory, because He wants, as I say, to have our company here and He's looking forward to it and I hope we're looking forward to having it for all eternity in the Father's house.