

## PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

### Monday Morning – The Preparation

Mark 14:12-15

Lord, deliver me from all superficiality in drawing near to Your table. Too often I have supposed that it is self-evident I must use again the Lord's Supper. I have considered too little how needful it was to take the stones out of the way when the Lord Himself shall come to prepare His way and make His path straight. I fancied that it was a light thing to receive a blessing. Lord, forgive me this error. Lord, enable my soul to understand what is meant by saying that sinful man shall meet his God. Work within me true thoroughness and eagerness to lay bare and to lay aside every sin, and trust myself wholly to You with a real surrender of the whole soul and of all its powers.

Lord Jesus, I beseech You, hear my petition. O Lord, grant that I may not lose the blessing by thoughtlessness or idleness. O my Lord, how much has it cost You to prepare the table for me, and now even this is not enough. I must still ask You to prepare me for the table. I thank You for the joyful assurance I have that You will do this. Therefore I place myself for this week in Your hands, in order that, by Your working in me, a right condition of my soul may be brought into existence.

Precious Lord, grant me a broken and contrite heart. And grant unto me to look up to You with a living, active faith as my Friend, my Saviour, my All. Grant, Lord Jesus, that I also may be able to say: I have but one thought, one desire, and that is Jesus. So shall I be prepared with honor to the Father to glorify You by my cheerful confession that I desire nothing but You, and Your wonderful love.

My Saviour, I depend upon You throughout this week. Work in me a true preparation for the Supper. I expect it from You. Amen

### Tuesday Morning – The Host

Luke 22:15; Revelation 3:20Fa

Eternal Love, what am I that You should desire to eat with me? Lord, it is too great a wonder that You should earnestly desire to eat with me: with me, who have desired so little to eat with You, who have longed so much more for the food that perishes and for the fellowship of the world than for You and Your heavenly bread. My Lord, give me so to feel the desire of Your soul to eat with me, that my sluggishness and my unbelief shall be ashamed, and all that is within me may prepare to set my heart open with joy before You.

Lord, too long have I suffered You to stand at the door and knock: now will I open it to You. Make even my heart a banquet hall furnished and prepared where You may make ready the Passover. Let the sight of Your blood poured out for me be to me the full assurance of redemption. Let the eating of the Lamb fill me with the power of a heavenly life. Let the eating with You be fellowship with You and Your love be the joy of my soul. Blessed Jesus, let the love of Your heart which draws You to me, also draw me to You.

My Saviour, it is this especially that I crave at Your hand: unveil to me the love of Your heart that makes You long so much after me. I know that this is one of the secret things that remain for Your dearest friends, and I hardly dare reckon myself among them. And yet, Lord, may I venture to do so? Grant me, I pray, one more glance into Your heart, that I may know how earnestly You desire to eat with me. Let my soul conceive what it is to have me at Your table with this great desire. That You would have me as Your own possession. You would enter into the deepest communion with me. You would communicate Yourself to me. You would become one with me. You would have me for Yourself. My Jesus, if this is really so, cause me to feel it. Let not my heart remain in darkness. Then shall I turn away from all else, and my life shall be filled with one supreme desire—to eat with Jesus, my King, and my Friend.

Precious Jesus, grant that it may indeed be so. Amen.

### **Wednesday Morning – Self-Examination**

1 Corinthians 11:28; 2 Corinthians 13:5

Search me, O God, and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way that is everlasting. Lord, You know how deceitful the heart is, far above all things. But, Lord, You know the heart, even my heart. And now I come to You, Omniscient One, and set my heart before You with this prayer: Lord, make me know whether Jesus Christ is in me, or whether I am still without Him, and reprobate before You.

Of old, You Yourself did see to it that hypocrites should be cast out from the midst of Your people. You did point out Achan. You did make known the man who dipped his hand in the dish with Your Son. You did detect Ananias. You are the King who comes in to scrutinize the guests that have sat down, and who says: “Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?” You are still mighty to search the hearts. Lord, hear now the supplication of Your people, and purge Your congregation. Let the life of the Spirit become so powerful that all doubts shall vanish, and Your children know and confess that Christ is in them. Let Your presence in their midst effect such a joy and such a reverence that mere confessors with the lips shall be afraid, and the self-righteous be brought to detection. Lord, make it known to many who are still content in uncertainty, whether Christ is in them or whether they are reprobate.

Great God, make this known to me. Is Jesus Christ in me? Let the Holy Spirit give me the blessed assurance of this. Then shall I sit down with confidence as Your child at Your table.

And if Jesus Christ is still not in me, and I am still without Christ and reprobate before You, O Merciful One, make this known to me. Make me willing to know this, and not to draw near to Your table except that Jesus Christ is in me. Lord, I come now to You to set my heart open before Jesus, and to receive Him as my Saviour. Amen.

### **Thursday Morning – Confession of Sin**

Psalms 38:18; Job 13:23; Matthew 5:4

Lord God, You search and know us. You are He that knows the hearts and tries the reins. Before You, there is no creature that is not made manifest: but all things are naked and open before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Your eyes see through the heart alike of the ungodly and the righteous. You are the Omniscient One, the Searcher of hearts.

Lord, how terrible is Your omniscience for Your enemies. That eye which burns in heaven as a flame of fire is always upon them. They would fain flee away from it, but they are never able. But for Your people, Your omniscience is a comfort and a refuge. You are He who can help them against themselves and the deceitfulness of their own hearts. They invite Your omniscience to search their heart and to cleanse them from their secret faults.

Holy God, I too place myself in Your hands. Search me, O God, and know my heart. With fear, and yet from the depths of my heart, I say unto You: Holy God, I wish to tolerate no single sin, however secret or deeply rooted it may be. Lord, I crave Your help: I place myself in the light of Your flaming eyes, before which no sin can stand. Search me, O God, and know my heart.

I know, Lord, when You do suffer man to enter into temptation and let him see what is in his heart, that the humiliation and the shame and the sorrow are often deep and bitter. I know that when You thrust Your mighty hand into the bosom to root out the almost unknown and yet deeply-rooted sin, flesh and blood must then fail. And yet I cry: Search me, O God, and know my heart.

Lord, make me know the sin to which I am blind: my characteristic sins also, about which I am so sensitive when any other speaks of them, whether it be the love of money with its seduction, or the love of the world with its vanity, or the love of self with its entanglement, make me to know it. Lord, use friend or foe: use what means You will, O my Father: only search me and know my heart: cleanse me from secret errors, and let no hurtful way abide with me, but lead me in the way that is everlasting.

Yes, gracious Lord, give me such an overmastering conviction of the entire corruption of my nature that I shall be constrained to receive in its completeness the perfect redemption of Christ. Amen.

## Friday Morning – Faith

Luke 7:48-51

Lord God, I find myself on the way to Your table. I desire also to receive there what Jesus gives when He says: “This cup is the New Covenant in my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Lord, I desire this day to acknowledge in a new act of faith my participation in the forgiveness of sins, and thus to meet with You at the Supper as Your own in the joy of redemption. For this end, will You grant unto me a sight of the work of Jesus as all-sufficient and perfectly fulfilled, so that there is nothing for me to do except to receive it and rejoice in it? Renew in me by the Holy Spirit the living assurance of my part in Jesus. And help me, Lord, with a clearer faith than ever before to appropriate the whole redemption of Your Son with all Your rich and glorious promises.

Lord, I beseech You, let no doubt rob me of this blessing. When I look to myself, there is nothing but fear and condemnation. When I have to question my heart and what I feel there, I have no hope. But I look to Your Word. It makes me cry out: “Who is a God like unto You that forgives iniquity?” That word points me to the Cross of Your dear Son, who died for the ungodly, and says to me: “The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin.” “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive all our sins.” That word teaches me to say: “With You is forgiveness.” Lord, on that word I depend: With You is forgiveness. I have confessed my sin before You: I lay my whole sinfulness bare before You, and I believe that through the virtue of the blood of Jesus, You have forgiven my sin.

My God, grant me grace to hold fast by this truth, and with every fresh sin to flee always straight to the blood of Christ. Grant that I may sit down at Your table with the blessed joy of a firm faith in the great promise of the New Covenant: “I will be gracious to your iniquities, and your sins and transgressions I will remember no more.”

Lord God, this You have said, and that will I believe. Amen.

## Saturday Morning – Self-Surrender

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

My Father, You call me to Your table to participate by faith anew in the sacrifice of Your Son: I cry to You, in turn, to make me partaker of the power, the inclination, and the spirit of His self-sacrifice, that I, in fellowship with Him, may in like manner offer myself up to You. “Through the Eternal Spirit He offered Himself up to God.” My God, let the same Spirit make me also, on my part, a complete offering to You.

My Father, grant unto me to see that self-offering constitutes the essence and the worth of His sacrifice. Let the surrender of my feeling and will to the will of God be the mark of my piety. Yes, Lord, let me live as one who offers himself wholly to the desire of God and man to further Your honor and their salvation.

My Father, at the Supper I desire truly to present myself as a living, holy sacrifice, well-pleasing, to God—an offering that shall be wholly consumed.

For this end, I entreat You for grace to prepare myself for this sacrifice, as Your Son prepared Himself for the sacrifice on Golgotha by saying in Gethsemane: “Not My will, but Yours be done.” So would I offer myself as a sacrifice to You with the complete surrender of my will: may Your will be all in all to me, O my God. Lord enable me to say in truth: “I live only to do the will of God.” In the strength of Jesus Christ, who lives in me and in whom I offer myself to You, I venture to make His language my own: “I come to do Your will, O God!”

Lord, prepare me also to say: I desire here before You to renounce every known and unknown sin. All self-seeking and self-will I desire to abandon before You. I take Jesus Christ as my holiness, my strength, my victory; and in virtue of the new nature which He has prepared for me, I say: Father, no more sin, but Your will only— Your will wholly, Your will always and in all.

Lord Jesus, who did give Himself for me, I give myself to You.

Yes, Lord, in this very moment, where I in solitude am this morning preparing myself for the Supper, I say before heaven and earth: Jesus, Son of God, I will give myself wholly to You, to live now and henceforth only for You. Lord Jesus, I do this now. And as one who is offered to the Father and to You, I will go to the Supper table, there to be confirmed in the faith and confession; I am no longer my own: I have been bought with a high price: I will glorify God in my body and my spirit, which are God's.