

## FRIDAY

“GOD WHY?”

SCRIPTURE:

John 3:16, 17; 12:24-26

Some people know — in their minds — the answer to these perplexing questions, but their hearts or their will cannot surrender.

“I know the innocent must suffer for the guilty, but WHY MY son? Why must I bear the hurt? It makes me resent others who do not have to sacrifice and fills me with anger toward a world that has caused such evil.” Of course it does. Love is part of our very being and when it is wrenched away from us, every- thing within us actually screams OUT in protest.

God knows this. Read Matthew 27:45-54. . . the account of God’s heartbreak as His Son was given for us. This is no unfeeling, in- sensitive God. This is the anguish and anger of a Father for His Son — and it was powerful enough to make all those who were present shake with fear.

Yes, He knows your anguish — and He has lived through your grief, your feeling of anger that such a sacrifice should be necessary. He waited for thousands of years. He tried every- thing else — and finally came to the awesome, searing truth that only life can sometimes give life to the vulnerable.

Our boys do not deserve to die. We know this and yet at least they have had the opportunity to know the benefits of a loving Father, to know what kind of God we have striving for us.

*Prayer: As parents who have shown them God, we know that should they lay down their lives, they will be received into Thy hands to be with Thy Son. Grant us comfort, strength and the ability to see beyond today’s tears. AMEN*

## SATURDAY

“A DIFFERENT KIND OF SACRIFICE”

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 25:40; John 15:12-21

“Greater love hath no man than a man lay down his life for a friend.”

Yet this does not always mean the single moment of dying . . . sometimes a man or woman lays down his life in love over a period of many years . . . the sacrifice is not a single, dramatic gesture — but a daily laying down of strength and life, the day-to-day surrender of one’s own desires and wants to the needs and demands of a beloved.

Too often we think of the “spotlight” sacrifices as being the greatest — yet think how many lives have been saved, how many homes have been bound up, how many hearts healed and souls revived by the quiet, day-to-day ministry of one selfless person.

Any act which lays aside our will for the good of another is sacrifice and each time we give up our own way a small piece of ego dies; we literally die to that portion of ourselves.

But it is that portion which becomes sacred and dearest to God . . .

You may never be asked to give your life in battle; perhaps your gift to God will be as a mother and wife, the constant, steady drain upon your utmost reserves . . . or as a teacher, as a nurse you will have to be the buffer for those weaker than yourself . . . as a father your life may be shortened because of your faithfulness to provide and protect your family. But as you have done it to these, you have done it to God.

*Prayer: Lord, only You know how difficult the quiet sacrifices are. May Your love for me, the sacrifice You once made, give me courage to go on, I pray. AMEN*

## MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021

“WHY MUST THE INNOCENT PAY THE PRICE?”

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 15:1-3; I John 4:9-11

A question many people ask is “Why should the innocent pay the price for evil, or why should the ‘good’ have to suffer with the ‘bad’?”

Perhaps we would have a right to ask this as Christians — if it were not for one blazing fact which looms above all others: that God gave His own Son, the only truly good and perfect human being who ever lived, for us without question, without weighing our worth against Christ’s, merely knowing that it was the only way mankind could ever be saved.

And today, as we send our beautiful young men, the cream of the race, to stand in the breach between evil and the innocent who are to come, we cannot help but understand in a new way what God was saying when He made the first personal sacrifice of His innocent Son for us who are not worthy to be compared with Him.

Only as we comprehend the entire picture of humanity — the struggle of God and Satan for the souls of men — can we realize that this necessity of the strong bearing the infirmities of the weak, the good suffering with the bad, is in reality the service we as God’s people give Him out of love for what He has first given to us.

*Prayer: Lord, it is so easy to keep my eyes only upon my own loss and to forget that Thou hast already given all for me. Make me less selfish and more willing to serve, I pray. AMEN*

## TUESDAY

*“I WILL NOT BE A POLLYANNA!”*

SCRIPTURE:

Philippians 2:14-18; Hebrews 12:1-4

It is one thing to agree with the concept of “sacrifice” for God; it is another to be joyful in that belief. We can make our lips say the words — and our heads nod in assent, but we cannot bridle or tame the raging emotions which inwardly deny the very words we are saying!

What do we do? Do we go on being hypocrites, Pollyannas? God forbid — and He does forbid hypocrisy. Therefore He has made it possible for us to believe in spite of ourselves.

First of all, we must answer the question, “Why am *I* living? To what end am *I* giving my- self?” (Phil. 1:21)

Secondly, “Do I really expect this earthly life to yield the peace and fulfillment of a heaven-on- earth? Am I being realistic in demanding such perfection in this life?”

Thirdly, “How much of my physical and national freedom has been bought by the lives of others before me? How much of my spiritual freedom has been purchased by God at greater sacrifice than I could ever make in return?”

Only as we come to an honest answer to these questions will the anger and pride, resentment and self-interest give way to inner humility . . . gratitude, the sober realization of the fact that, we are alive because others have had to die for us . . .

*Prayer: Lord, may I never forget all men live in debt to the sacrifice of others before them. Make me truly a grateful and humble person, I pray . . . help me to see my life as an instrument for good in Thy hand. AMEN*

## WEDNESDAY

*“FOR STRENGTH TO GO ON”*

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 55:6-13

Even the greatest men in the Bible had moments of deep depression and of discouragement David’s psalms are often the pouring out of anguish — cries for God’s comfort and strength. He lived so much of his life in exile, hunted by Saul’s men, threatened, in constant danger that his courage and his strength often faltered.

Yet always he called upon his God, never turned from Him, and this we, too, must learn to do for we are human, and our times of despair will come. At these times, only God is near enough to fully understand our depths. Job, in his impossible dilemma, found little comfort in his closest friends and so continued to turn to- ward God with his questions and anguish, his weeping and pain. (Job. 5:8, 9; 42:1-6, 10-17)

But always, when we have come through a period of “walking in the wilderness” or through the valley of death, we come out knowing God better than before, being more assured of His nearness, His love. His staying power that defies description. People say, “What good is His love if He cannot spare you grief?” Yet when His love is so great that we feel it and are comforted by it *in the midst of our grief* . . . then we know for a certainty that our God lives to be with us.

*Prayer: God, forgive me when I turn away from Thee. Help me never to judge Thy love for me by my trials, but rather by Thy presence with me through those trials, I pray. I thank Thee for Thine ever-present faithfulness to me. AMEN*

## THURSDAY

*“PROSPERITY - GOD’S CONCEPT  
. . . OR MAN’S?”*

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 12:15-21; John 17:1-3

Today we reckon success by a man’s material wealth or fame . . . in terms of the physical or intellect. Is this a true measure of our success in God’s sight?

Animals instinctively provide the young with food and a nest or den. It is “taken for granted” in nature; only man demands praise for an obligation fulfilled, only man makes a fetish of enhancing the necessary beyond all proportion. Does this kind of activity please God the most?

God has given man a unique spirit, a soul which sets him apart from the animal. Perhaps God judges us by what we make of this portion of our inheritance. What then? How would each of us stand in His eyes . . . paupers, or kings?

God has given us the ability to worship. Why? Is religion meant to be a pat on the head, a meal in the tummy? Is it meant to be a pass into material security, physical health?

Man has been given a brain, an imagination with which to create, he has a body with which to acquire such things. Only through faith in God, through a soul can he hope to become a fully or completely prosperous man, for the man without God is little more than an educated animal, and less than the man God intended him to be. If you were to stand before God, stripped of your wealth and personal credits, what have you to take to Him?

*Prayer: Lord, may I never forget to prepare myself for the time when I come in unto Thee. AMEN*