

THEY LOOKED UPON HIM
John Wright Follette

1. Well, we're in our holy week, bringing it to it's conclusion, and I was reading only a few days ago, Good Friday, the story of the crucifixion. And as I read it, I found four or five little words that I had never read very carefully. And perhaps you have the same experience. You just read it because it's there, by force of habit, until the SPIRIT "checks" you and you stand and look at that. I was reading in Matthew, the story or the crucifixion. And I'll read you the verse. It's in Matthew the 27th chapter and say, the 34th verse. "And they gave Him vinegar to drink, mingled with gall, and when He had tasted thereof, He would not drink. And they crucified Him and parted His garments, casting lots, that they might be filled up which was spoken of by the prophet, 'They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.'" It's a fulfillment of the scripture in it's prophecy. "And sitting down, THEY WATCHED HIM THERE." AND SITTING DOWN THEY WATCHED HIM THERE. Seven little words. But so very significant. I had read that so many, many times without thinking. What a crude, cruel, terrifying vision, that they would ever want to sit down and LOOK at. The Son of God in the act of crucifixion and death, becoming a SPECTACLE. "And sitting down, they watched Him." Now the question comes to me when I read that, WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK? Well, what YOU SEE when you look depends very much, if not wholly, upon what you BRING TO THE VISION. The VISION is ONE. They all looked at the SAME objective spectacle. The Son of God dying on Calvary. It was the SAME spectacle. But here was a group of people; and as I looked at it, I have taken 7 different aspects, that is, 7 different people who LOOKED AT HIM. And what did they SEE? Well, when you LOOK, you carry with you, without thinking about it, your own peculiar, personal REACTION to that stimuli. The VISION is a STIMULI. It's STIMULATES in you a whole background. Perhaps a whole LIFETIME. And as you bring that lifetime up and EXPOSE it to that vision, something tremendous will happen. It HAS to happen. And what you SEE, I believe, is YOUR REACTION, because YOU BRING TO IT, WHAT YOU SEE. You HAVE it ALREADY IN YOUR HEART. You have it ALREADY in your heart. It's like great music. You go to hear some good music. I'm Christian, and of course I'm Pentecostal, and supposed to be Spiritually minded, but God never took out from me my appreciation of beauty. I like beauty in music, and in art; in any field. Because God is a great artist, and a creator of beauty. And because He brings us OUT of darkness and sin, into a life with Him, He does not bring an dissatisfaction in us concerning the things that are beautiful in HIM. If we are Christians, we will RESPOND to that beauty. I have known people who haven't very much SENSE of the beautiful until they were really converted. And after they had come to God through Christ Jesus, and have lived with Him in the Spirit, He has aroused in their consciousness a response to beauty that they had never sensed before. Because I believe that should be a NORMAL reaction.

2. So, when we behold, we CARRY WITH US THE RESPONSE. Great music...we might have this morning, some very fine concerto played. I like a piece of music like that. I think it's beautiful. Well, now there may be a dozen people; do you think everyone of you people would get same reaction? You couldn't! You say, "Yes, it's beautiful. Yes, it's beautiful." But what PART stirred you? There had to be something IN your HEART AND LIFE which responds INSTANTLY to the tone or the color that that music is producing. And in a moment, you're "transported," you're changed, you're lifted, you're thrilled, you're carried out. Well, how? By the wound of the music STRIKING IN upon what you have BROUGHT TO the music! How do I know? Because of the FIVE HUNDRED REACTIONS that come from five hundred DIFFERENT people. Isn't that true? Do you think that everyone enjoyed that music just as YOU did? No. Because they were not BRINGING what YOU did. I've seen some people say when the violins get in a piece of music...how many know, sometimes the violins have to be used to build up your background, "zeee, zeee, zeee, zeee."? And some people say, "Why is he fiddling so?" Listen. How many know he is building up a remarkable background? A tremendous background. Now in a minute, there's going to be a flash of color, and on comes a crashing thing! You wouldn't get that unless you knew what he was doing. The man stands there, "I wish he wouldn't fiddle so! When is he going to play a tune?" How many know you don't get "Yankee Doodle" played in a concerto?

You get music. You get color. You BRING TO the music what you enjoy. This is purely the OUTWARD STIMULI. And it stirs WITHIN YOU WHAT YOU BRING. You do it the same in ART. I've visited art galleries, perhaps you have too, in London. Tate's Gallery, where they have Turner's marvelous pictures, in color. They are tremendous! Turner's colors. And one day, he was standing there, rather nonchalant, easy, and here were some people...and one of them said, "Well I never saw colors like that!" He stepped up to his side and he said, "Don't you wish you could?" Well, I feel like that sometimes! The man let out such IGNORANCE. It tried him so, he just stepped up behind and said, "Don't you wish you could?" Yes. And sometimes when I'm reading the Word that somebody is thrilled to pieces, I say, "Lord, do something IN ME, that I will RESPOND to YOU!" My whole heart would RESPOND TO GOD! He displays Himself so many times. He gives us this marvelous Word! I don't want to sit down and read it as if I were reading a story out of a magazine! It's LIFE! It's LIFE! His Words are LIFE! I want to read it so it QUICKENS me.

3. Now, teaching that thought in mind, they sat down and WATCHED Him. Who are the "THEY?" Well, when I looked at it, I said, "I...I think there was quite a little group. And I think they're all going to get a different reaction as they sit down and WATCH Him." The Son of God...in the death throes...in the agony of Calvary...offering Himself back to God...as an offering for the sins of the world... to REDEEM the very ones who are LOOKING AT HIM. So, I started making a little list of these people; I don't know how far I'll get with them, but I want to talk about them this morning. I think the first group that I want to look at are these terrifyingly, wicked JEWS! those Pharisees, and the old priests; and that hierarchy, that was always antagonistic! They were always AGAINST HIM. They had conieved in every way possible to get ahold of Him and put Him out of the way! While the common people heard him gladly, they were conieving to put Him out of the picture. These Pharisees, the priests; they were ALL PRESENT, for it speaks of them. So there they SIT. Well, what are they SEEING? To THEM, to THEM, they think, "I'm seeing the END of this trouble-maker! He's been in our midst these YEARS! Stirring up this faction! Doing everything against us! Never coming to US! But out among the common people, preaching this gospel, and at last claiming to be the Søn of God, and all such blasphemy! It's time He's put out of the way!" And so, they REJOICED together! But do you see what it is? They are rejoicing in their OWN DEFEAT! For the CROSS AND CALVARY forever DEFEATED the antagonism of that group. And silenced them! And they were LOOKING at their OWN DEFEAT because they brought their defeat IN THEIR HEARTS!!! Do you get it? They brought their defeat IN THEIR HEARTS. EXPOSING IT before that LAMB OF GOD; the whole thing was an EXPOSE'. There is was. Their DARKNESS, their hideous attitude toward Him. Their antagonism. And as they REJOICED, they had been shouting, "Crucify! Crucify! Crucify!" Now they think, "Now, we have crucified Him!" No! You Pharisees! You priests! You scribes! You're looking at your OWN DEFEAT! For you've wrought defeat! And it's EXPOSED to you through this glorious light, the Lamb of God, the light of the world! And it EXPOSES IT! And you are there, sitting in your OWN DEFEAT! For you shall never have the occassion again to antagonize Him, to terrify Him, to be ugly and kill Him! This is your hour, which is an hour of DEFEAT! For you've BROUGHT IT WITH YOU. Now we could talk for some time concerning that first group. What did they see? They saw what they thought was the accomplishment of their conieving. Well, the very accomplishment of their conneiving was the DEFEAT that silences them forever. For they have nothing more! Nothing more! Silence! Why? That's what they BROUGHT TO THE CROSS. And they sat down and WATCHED HIM. What did they see? They saw their whole MORAL, NATIONAL COLLAPSE.
4. Now, I want to talk about another group. Do you know anybody else that was there WATCHING? If we take it from the two extremes, that of LIGHT, and that of DARKNESS, this seemed to be the DARKEST hour in the world, but it was giving BIRTH to the great LUMINOUS, brightest, glorious HOPE that we shall ever HAVE. It was having it's BIRTH, for ALL LIFE IS BORN OUT OF DEATH. And there is a principle that you will have to OWN, if you are a Christian making your way back again to the heart of God. Remember, that in this

strange and wonderful walk that we have in the Spirit, moving back again to the heart of God, there are PRINCIPLES AND LAWS which we must understand and follow if we make any kind of success of it. Rather than some singing book theology, get ahold of the Word of God. What does He say? ALL LIFE ISSUES OUT OF DEATH. There can be NO LIFE unless there be DEATH, as it's foundation. For out of the secrets of that death, LIFE will spring. I spoke about it the other night with a little seed. That little apple seed was potentially a TREE, full of FRUIT! But BLIND people can't see that, they see a seed! Look PAST that!! Past it's potential! It IS a seed! But in the hands of God that little brown seed is a terrific tree, green and fresh with leaves. Laden with blossoms and with fruit, all HIDDEN AWAY in a little brown seed. No farmer ADDS anything to the tree. He CULTURES the tree. He watches the tree. He takes care of the tree. And out from the midst of the seed, the tree GROWS. You don't ADD anything to the tree. No farmer went out and put leaves on it. The leaves are in the seed! No one went out and put limbs on a tree, the limbs are in the seed! Can you see that? That's the miracle of God in the vegetable world. Growing. A seed! A tiny miracle! For hidden away in that little seed are all the possibilities of the tree and the fruit! You do not ADD one thing! You RELEASE it! Let Him come into your heart and RELEASE YOU!! And set Himself FREE in your heart! All you can do is say, "Come in, Jesus. I can be the GROUND. You're the everlasting SEED. Plant Yourself in my heart. Culture it, water it! Fertilize it! Prune it! Do ALL you can! But bring the blossoms and bring the fruit!" For YOU are the secret, potentially in you, are ALL the things of the here and the here-after.

5. So, we find LIFE ISSUES OUT OF DEATH. Who else is very present watching this whole scene, but is not visible? Did you know the DEVIL was there, or didn't you know that? The Devil was there watching what he thought was a marvelous success. "I will at last put this man out of the world." He had TRIED it when He was a little baby. That was the Devil who got in that little idea of slaying those little children. The Devil didn't even want Him to live. He said, "I can interceed with something. I can get in here." And he tried his best to get rid of Him. Even as a little child. For he KNEW...he knew, that that little child was the wonderful CHRIST, born as a little babe...was the answer to the whole riddle of the universe. And He answered to God, hallelujah! But he is defeated. He tries again when He comes out grown, and is laboring in the synagogue teaching and preaching. Get a mob so that they can push Him over the precipus and KILL him! And Jesus moves through them like that. And God takes Him through and delivers Him. He gets Him out on the water, in a ship, and His disciples! The Devil is the Prince of the power of the air!! That's his LOCATION. That's his HABITAT! His domain of power. He is the Prince of the power of the air, and he can start a cyclone...why? Because it is DESTRUCTIVE! He has come to KILL, to STEAL, to DESTROY! He cannot give LIFE. Jesus says, "I have come to give LIFE!" Glory to God! Glory to God! "I have come to give LIFE. This enemy has come with three ideas. To STEAL, to KILL, to DESTROY." And if we had a morning here for an hour, we would open up what those three things are in relation to the human race. They're the basic DISTURBING THINGS. So he says, "I can stir up a storm...and DROWN HIM!" And he stirs up the most terrifying storm! Jesus is aware of it. How do I know? Because He is ADAM, the LAST, the PERFECTED ADAM, who has power over the things of NATURE. For God gave that original Adam power! And Christ as that original Adam, displays his power and REBUKES THE STORM! If that is a storm GOD has started, Jesus would never rebuke His Father's work! Jesus never rebukes His Father's work! He can rebuke the work of the enemy! And He DID! And the sea was calm. Now, he says, "I've tried all the way through to dispose of this strange, marvelous man. Now we have Him on Calvary." But what does he do? Do you know what he's seeing? He is seeing his own DEFEAT. Why? Because he is a DEFEATED THING. How many get it or don't you? What is he seeing? He is seeing the DEFEAT of HIMSELF! And he KNOWS it! In connection with that, I'll put down another verse that you might like to use. It's in Colossians 2:15 if you're taking notes. Where it says on Calvary, He disposes and EXPOSES and DEMOLISHES all the works of evil! He says it DISTINCTLY! That at Calvary, all that work of darkness and hell is DEFEATED. In Colossians; I'm glad we have that verse. I'm glad I have scripture for what I'm talking about. Lots of time we don't sit down

and study it, but it's all there.

6. Now, let me take a third, just as I move along. How many remember, distinctly now, separate individuals who are mentioned in this group watching Him? How many of them really could sense the He IS and must be some kind of a supernatural being to have gone through all that He has, and NOW, with the thunder and crashing, and the lightning, and the whole storm, the whole hideous thing...in His death, what do we find? A centurion. Not a Christian. A centurion. Now he becomes a TYPE to me: how many can see these are all TYPICAL groups of people that are living today? Did you know we have centurions around us today? Yes, we have. Do you know we have the Scribes? Do you know we have the Pharisees? Certainly! We have everyone of these dramatic characters living right around us all the time. And what is the centurion's reaction? He has sense enough to know, "THIS is not common thing. This is no earthly, earthbound spectacle. He must be a son of some GOD!" Do you remember? That was his reaction, and he spoke it out. "This is the son of a God." Now, he has no OT revelation of God. But He knows that there IS a God. And so he says, "This is none other than the SON OF GOD, to go through a thing like this!" A response NEARER TO TRUTH than those who had the scriptures in their hands! The old Scribes and they with scriptures in their hands, and he a centurion gets a REACTION that's PAST THEM! Because he can see through, "There must be something SUBLIME, mystical, spiritual, in this thing. He must be a SON of God." Oh, I can't go on with that, but that's a lovely theme!
7. Now, I want you to look at another one. This much we have looked at, is rather on the "earth" side. How do I know there was something else? I know from the scripture. The scriptures. Back in the scriptures when it speaks of Jesus, and His coming, and His revelation, and His marvelous DEATH, resurrection, and the glorious homecoming, it was a SPECTACLE that the angels desired to look into! Do you remember that? The mystery, and it says, "The angels DESIRED to look into this mystery." It was quite VEILED to them. God never explained to all the angelic host what HE was doing. But the angels knew all the time as they watched this man, moving, coming, going. Had they not sung at His birth? Had not some of them ministered to Him in the hour of TEMPTATION? Had they not come and strengthened Him in the garden? They had ministered and ministered. And it says, "It was a wonder, a mystery to the angels, that they desired to look into it." So God draws the curtain back and He says, "Angelic hosts. Here is the climax of that whole dramatic life. It was all unto this DEATH, that He may come in LIFE back again to our HOME." And the angels in heaven beheld it. What a SPECTACLE! That all heaven, earth, the whole universe, invited to look upon. And as it says in the scriptures, "The angels desired to look into." God says, "You may look." And the angelic hosts beheld this strange, mystical...beyond words!..episode...the Son of God passing into DEATH.
- 8, Now, there's somebody else there also. We have the centurion, the angels. While Jesus is dying on the cross, He is yet sensible enough to respond to them. This THIEF on the cross is smitten with conviction. And while one of them rails against the Lord, this thief rebukes his friend over there. Do you remember how he rebuked him? He told him to be quiet. He says, "We have done evil and deserve. But this man has done nothing to deserve it!" Wasn't that sweet to have that as a response from a THIEF! A testimony from a thief! One of the first testimonies we have of Him hanging on a cross is from the lips of a THIEF. He takes testimony from anyone who will give it to Him. The angels are filled with it! Heaven is sounding with it! It re-echoes even in the heart of a thief, whose consciousness, His inner conviction has been awakened, and he said, "We deserve it, but not THIS MAN, for this man has done no evil." And he turns to Jesus and he says, "Remember me." Well, what did Jesus say? The only thing that a DYING SAVIOR could say. He ACCEPTED his repentance. "This day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." There's the FIRST CONVERT from the crucifixion, was made on a CROSS. The first, first CONVERT. The FIRST CONVERT...is a man hanging on a cross close to Jesus. I like that. So I have another one who stood...no, he was HANGING. But he also WATCHED. Do you get it? What is it? It's the repentant HEART. The heart that is OPEN and CONSCIOUS of it's DESPERATE NEED, making it's CONFESSION, and Jesus receiving him, "This day shalt thou

be with Me in Paradise." FIRST CONVERT hanging on a CROSS. Isn't it strange? Well, this whole thing is STRANGE to me. I don't think anybody could have ever made a story like this story on the crucifixion. Only GOD can make a thing like this. The FIRST convert from the DEATH, all of them were by ANTICIPATION! They looked FORWARD TO CALVARY! FORWARD to Calvary! Here is one in the immediate presence of Calvary. And the very FIRST one in the immediate presence of it, after it's long period of prophecy, is a dying thief. Isn't that strange? But that's WHO WE ARE. That's BROKEN HUMANITY. Making it's CONFESSION. And God says through His Christ, "This day shalt thou be..." Isn't it lovely He reads the HEART, when our lips can't always say what we WANT to. I think some of the most meaningful prayers I ever prayed were never prayed with my lips. PRAYER goes past your lips. Prayer goes past your lips. PAST that. And that's what Jesus sees. So we find the thief on the cross.

9. Now let me look at another group. Some who are very close to Him. Because they are MENTIONED. Here are the disciples, at least some of them. The very MOTHER of Jesus, herself, and the other Mary, the women, Mary Magdeline. What do we have. The most intimate friends and His relatives, the closest to Him, the very closest to Him, are present with Him now, as He hangs upon the cross. I want to speak of Mary just for a moment. I don't think any of us could put ourselves in the place and get the same REACTION. Not one of us. Because we can't appreciate the heart of Mary. We won't know it from reading it. We've never experienced anything like that. Here was the mother to whom the angel had announced that God will give you the Savior. You shall call Him "Emmanuel." So she has received that word, carried it in her heart, and it was UNDER THE SHADOW OF HIS WINGS that the little Christ child is formed. It was not in the OPEN, in some brilliant, light place of EXPLANATION, and analysis, and all the logic in the world, and the philosophy that would understand it. No! She said in amazement, "HOW shall this thing BE? Seeing I know not a man." Her view was purely NORMAL, natural, physical. "I'm not married. HOW shall this thing BE?" That wasn't a question, that she should have to have the incarnation explained to her. Don't be ridiculous. And God said, "I will send an angel, and he will sit down and explain the incarnation to you." Can you imagine anything as crazy and as foolish as that? Don't let it enter your mind. She's not asking for an analysis of this idea of His incarnation. It was purely the amazement of a maiden in it's quick response in saying, "Oh God! HOW can that BE?" He answers her just as easily. "ABIDE UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY." Now, do you see something there? He never desired a brilliant analysis that many of our scholars have so hard, tried desparately for these ages to EXPLAIN THE MYSTERY of the incarnation. God never desired it! HOW shall it be? ABIDE UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY. The mystery is GOD'S! WHERE will it be wrought out? "In the SHADOW, Mary." And it was only as Mary took that place of SHADOW, DEPENDENCE, utter ABANDONMENT to God, that the Christ child is formed! And she carries this little Christ child, and finally gives BIRTH to it, and this is her great joy! For she has brought forth, at last, what the angel had announced! And she brings Him forth in SHADOW, not with an explanation for any philosopher. TRUTH COMES BY REVELATION!! If you don't remember anything I've ever TOLD you, remember it!! I BELIEVE in education; I'm a college man! I've had my semin-ary and college work; I have all of that. But I never put any dependence on it at ALL!! In the FIELD OF THE SPIRIT, in the REALM OF THE SPIRIT, there is where God by the HOLY SPIRIT brings REVELATION to the heart, that is open, clean, and clear, and responsive! I do not DEPRECIATE what I've had! It's good as a technique. It's good to have if I want to look up my verses if I want to translate anything in the old and NT, to get my Hebrew or my Greek out. That's all right. I do that. That's quite MECHANICAL! But that's not INSPIRATIONAL! It's mechanical! And it's very good to lead me out into THOUGHT PROCESSES! But the things of God are not brought to us through any THOUGHT PROCESSES. They are brought through THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. LEAVE your learning where it belongs. Don't depreciate it. Get as much as you can--"LAWFULLY." And keep it correctly where it belongs. Then move with the Spirit into the REALM OF THE SPIRIT where the author of this Word can interpret to you in the Spirit it's TRUTH. PLEASE remember that! I'm not against education. I would be silly! I want it in it's proper PLACE. What has...toward the end of the age it had to come anyway, but it's not NEW,

What has wrought all this strange idea of "God is dead?" Well now, that isn't NEW. Nitsche, our great philosopher in the German field said that long ago. Why? Because in HIS little field of philosophy, and he was a philosopher; I "respect" philosophers! Let them alone in their field!! Don't criticize them! They have their field! But don't let them in over in the field of the Spirit! They don't BELONG there! It is with the HEART man believeth! Not with the brains! Your brains go out and gather your material, and lay it before you, but your HEART has to give assent and CONSENT. Long ago, he had reduced all this peculiar ideas of God and Christianity...I felt it in a seminary forty and fifty years ago when I was a young man. Drew Seminary, Methodist Seminary, one of the finest we have in the East. And they try to put you through the best. I remember when all that came in. I remember when Walter Rushinbush, our great Baptist scholar got out his book, "Christianity and the Social Crisis." What a FUROR it made. Well, I put mine in the FURNACE. I understood it perfectly...from HIS standpoint, because I'm a school teacher. But I said, "You have no right to peddle that off upon some unsophisticated public who have no background of learning at all. And you peddle that." Now that has been cooking, and cooking, and cooking, and cooking, till Nitsche was the first one who spoke of it. "God is DEAD." And I saw a little squib the other day, and I was very much amused by it. And it says, "God is dead...Nitsche." And under it, it says, "NITSCHIE is dead...God." I almost got blessed!! I said, "That's really right!" How many get the point? So he'd said his nice, little piece, and that was the END of it. He thought he was saying something BRILLIANT. And so we have these scholars now. I'm really pathetic. I feel sorry for them. I don't feel envious that they've got such a stride in intellect that they've reached such a point! That's the point of DISASTER, brother! Don't go that way! No. No. And I just thrilled. "Nitsche is dead...God." So we've still "got" God, anyway! So I was pleased.

10. Where was I on the...oh, MARY! Yes. Oh, I want to finish up, just a little point in there too! You see, when she has acknowledged this fact that she is to become the mother of this MESSIAH, she takes her place in the SHADOW. Now, people like the things of God brought to pass in their EXPERIENCE. We like, as far as possible, a DUPLICATION in our hearts and lives, of the life of CHRIST. The beauty of Christ. The loveliness of Christ. Let His IMAGE be formed in you. Let His IMAGE be formed in you. Be CONFORMED to the image of the Son. Now, that is all wonderful and beautiful, and I believe it. I'm in for it. But how will you do it? "Well, get all the best commentaries you can, and read, and then say all the best prayers that you can pray, and get blessed very hard and you'll be transformed!" No dear. You're ending in a dead-end alley! There's no answer to that. He told you how to do it! "Abide under the SHADOW of the Almighty." Who wants to go into a SHADOW? Nobody. "Oh, I don't like shadows. They're so depressing! I don't like trials! They're so terrifying! I want the LIGHT! The LIGHT! The beautiful LIGHT! I want..." Now, wait a minute. You're not going to find the Christ that's revealed. He is FORMED IN THE SHADOW. The next time He takes you into one good, dark, deep shadow, and it's the Lord who sees good to take you, go PATIENTLY with Him, and say, "Thank You, Lord. This is NEW to me. I thought to be conformed to Thy image would be one of the most beautiful, illuminating, lushish, glorious experiences! Almost a translation, Lord! But..I didn't seem to get translated." "No, dear. Come into My shadow." WHO makes the shadow? GOD. It's the SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY, not the Devil! The shadow is of the ALMIGHTY! ABIDE, if you can, a little while, in that shadow. And if you can stand it, you can take some very terrifying experiences. Because you know your orientation, and you know your PLACE, in the SHADOW.
11. What else did she see? Well, do you remember when Jesus came up from His baptism, and had the power of the Holy Spirit upon Him, and had been recognized by the Father? That great blessing, "This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." And He moves up... what is the very first occasion that He meets? It's a wedding feast. The very first occasion that he meets after this acclaim is a wedding feast. Now Mary is a very anxious mother. Who wouldn't be? She had carried this secret for a long time, that this is the MESSIAH. "He said that it was the Messiah. The angel TOLD me. And if He's the

Messiah, He will "messiah!" And He will present Himself! And He will win the confidence of the people, and our nation will be set free! Oh, my beloved Son, if you only knew! What an hour is awaiting You!" So, He comes up to the wedding feast, and Mary is there. Now they run short of wine. Who is the first one to take any initiative in this awkward situation? Well, MARY. Well, MARY has no business to speak! She is a GUEST! No guest with any sense of etiquette would get up and start having a time because the wine runs out! She is very much OUT OF ORDER. She's the "sweet Virgin Mary," but how many know, she can make mistakes too? She made a HORRIBLE MISTAKE! How do you know? Because He got right up and REBUKED her! That was a KEY WORD, "Son...they have no wine. You know what I mean! You have the POWER. Vindicate Yourself! Show Yourself as the Messiah! Work a miracle here, and PROVE the whole thing! Does He say, "Mother...?" NO! He calls her, "Woman," and He said, "Woman"! Not, "mother." WOMAN!!! FLESH!!! NATURAL!!! NATURE!!! NATURE!!! "What have I to do with you? I've living on a plane IN THE SPIRIT, here. My whole conduct has to be ACTUATED by the promptings of the Spirit. And what the Spirit PROMPTS, the Spirit EXECUTES!!" Now, get THAT straight! I want an hour in there! WHAT THE SPIRIT INDICATES, THE SPIRIT MUST EXECUTE! That's HARD, but it's TRUE! The Spirit often INDICATES, and FLESH gets up to EXECUTE! We'll have to close with this. This is MARY. So, she has HER hour. He merely says, "My hour hath not yet come." Indicating, "I HAVE an hour. But the method that will PRODUCE THAT HOUR is not MYSELF performing a miracle with wine. THAT hour will come through some other medium beside that. Woman...flesh...nature, with all your 'good' suggestions, you keep STILL when the Holy Spirit wants to do a SPIRITUAL MINISTRY! For the FLESH cannot execute a SPIRITUAL PROMISE!" The WORD is in the SPIRIT. It has to be EXECUTED in the SAME SPIRIT that was given. FLESH cannot do it. So, FLESH sits down. Now, when He comes, and He's with them, and He sees Calvary, do you know what He said? "NOW has MY hour COME!" How many remember that? "NOW hath My hour come! Mary...NOW is the hour! You wanted an ABORTION. You wanted AN HOUR there. A strange, superficial thing. That is NOT My hour; my hour is NOT come. CALVARY!! NOW has my hour come. And He goes into it!

12. Now I want just a couple minutes here. This isn't the end. You see, the DEATH provokes a RESURRECTION. And you CANNOT HAVE A RESURRECTION unless you have your DEATH. But the RESURRECTION is not the end. The RESURRECTION anticipates an ASCENTION, and a HOME going. And when Elijah would like to have spoke to Him on the mount, it says, "He spoke to Him concerning His DEATH." Your word there is the "exodus." He discussed that whole program, clean through to his ascension, was discussed by Him. That word is a poor word. And so he says, "As I have risen, so shall there be an ASCENTION." And then I got in there, and oh, I want about a week in there. Because that is so sweet! But...just may we do one thing? I wish you could sing? Will you sing something? Why? I ask you to sing it, because to me it's a fulfillment in the scripture. When that ascension takes place and He goes HOME, how many know ALL HEAVEN breaks loose? That's right. ALL heaven breaks loose. What do they sing? "Lift up your heads O ye gates, and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors!!! FOR THE KING OF GLORY IS COMING!!!" And I like that ascension. Why? Because that is the TERRIFIC VICTORY...VICTORY!! All heaven sounding! Antiphonal singing! One choir asks the question, the other choir answers it. "WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?!" and they sing, and I believe all the music in heaven opened, and the other chorus answers back, "HE is the King of Glory!" So, I wish we could sing that, but we can't. We have to go.