

1. JESUS KNOWS WHAT'S INSIDE

*Lord Jesus,
help me to think about you, learn
more about you, and love you today.*

READ: MATTHEW 23

Do you know what's inside of you? Have you ever seen underneath your skin or inside your bones?

When I was in Seoul, Korea one of my Korean friends said, 'Let's go to the Aquarium. I want you to see a very special fish.'

Now, I'm not really interested in fish, but my friend wanted me to see a very unusual fish. You could see all its bones! You could actually see right inside this fish.

As I walked away I thought: 'What would we humans be like if we were like that fish?'

If other people could look right inside us they would see all the bits that are working – the heart pumping and the

blood going round. They might even be able to see inside our stomach and find out what we'd had for breakfast!

But think of this. Jesus is able to see right inside you, not to see what you have had for breakfast, but to see what you're thinking and see what you're wanting.

Have you ever seen an X-ray? It looks like a piece of thin plastic, but hold it up to the light and you can see inside your body. A doctor can take an X-ray of your heart, but Jesus sees right into the heart of our lives, where no one else can see – where he can see whether we love him or not.

I wonder if my heart is full of love for Jesus? Or is there something in my heart that's more important to me than Jesus? If there is, Jesus says, 'I'm going to have to fix that, if you're going to be really well as a Christian.'

We may say to Jesus, 'Don't do that, Jesus! I love that thing very much.' But he will say to us, 'If I don't fix it, it's going to do you a lot of damage. This is something that we need to fix.'

When Jesus fixes it we say, 'Ah, I'm much healthier now!'

The way to live happily with the Lord Jesus is to listen to what he says and to obey his Word.

Lord Jesus

Thank you for seeing the secrets of my heart and understanding everything about me. Please get rid of the things in my life that displease you and make me pure in your sight. I ask this in your name.

Amen.

2. DON'T LOOK BACK!

*Lord Jesus,
help me to think about you, learn
more about you, and love you today.*

READ: GENESIS 19:1–26

Abraham had a nephew called Lot. He was well named! Lot wanted 'a lot'! When Abraham let him choose what land he would like, he chose the best looking land. But the people who lived there were horrible and did horrible things. They didn't love God, and they didn't want to do what God said. The place was called Sodom. It was horrible.

God sent a terrible judgement on Sodom. The earth shook and hot sulphur rained down from the sky. But God sent two angels to rescue Lot and his family.

God said, 'You must not stop. You must not look back.' But Mrs Lot did look back and she became a pillar of salt. All the sulphur rained down on top of her because she stopped.

I wonder why she looked back. Perhaps she wished that she hadn't left all her things behind. 'My jewels, my rings, that dolly I had when I was a little girl. Oh, they meant so much to me!'

Jesus said, 'Remember Lot's wife,' (Luke 17:32). When you decide to follow Jesus you can't look back. You've got to keep going. You can't give up.

A young woman called Gladys Aylward believed God was calling her to go to China. She asked some Christians, 'Will you send me to China?' She went from one group of Christians to another with the same question. Time after time she got the same answer. 'No, no! We can't send you to China.'

'But God has called me to go to China,' was Gladys' reply. 'If you're not going send me, I'll need to go to China on my own.' So that was what she did. She looked after little boys and girls who didn't have parents and she taught them about the Lord Jesus.

Gladys was faithful to the Lord Jesus. Some people had said to her, 'It's too difficult to go.' But Gladys said, 'If God has told me to go, then I'm going.'

That's the way to live. When God tells you to go and you go, he blesses you. He keeps you and he guides you and he uses you. Gladys Aylward helped many people. Do

you think you would be willing to go? It might just be to somebody in school or, it might be to faraway China. When God says, 'Go!' go.

Loving Heavenly Father

We thank you for your Word that tells us to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations. Please help us at home and with our friends to tell them about you. Help us to go because you have told us. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

3. FOLLOW THE WAY

*Lord Jesus,
help me to think about you, learn
more about you, and love you today.*

READ: ACTS 24:10–16; JOHN 14:6

One day I was reading the local newspaper when I saw an advert that caught my eye. It said, ‘Ask Saint Jude for three favours.’ What does that mean? I think it means that you’re supposed to ask Saint Jude for something special to happen.

Perhaps you’ve heard of people who say special prayers to Mary for nine days. A ‘novena’ is a prayer that some people say for nine days in succession.

Don’t you think it is a big mistake to pray to Mary or Jude when our Father God wants us to pray to him?

Jesus says, ‘Pray in my name. I am the Way to the Father’ (See John 14:6).

Perhaps these people think that Jesus is too busy? Maybe they think to themselves, 'I'm afraid of Jesus, I'd better go to somebody else.'

The world is full of people who don't know the Way. Paul said he was a follower of the Way, the one and only Way to get to God. And who is the Way? The Way to God is the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Paul spoke about being a follower of the Way, he was speaking about being a follower of Jesus, because Jesus is the Way to get to know God.

If we know the Way we should tell others about him! Tell somebody who doesn't know Jesus that he is the Way to God.

If we're following Jesus, loving Jesus, serving Jesus, trusting Jesus, we will want to get to know Jesus better!

But lots of your friends don't know the Way. They're lost! Let's pray to the Lord Jesus and say, 'Help me to tell my friends about you.'

Jesus will answer that prayer.

Lord Jesus

We thank you that you are the Way, and the Truth and the Life. You are the Way to know our Heavenly Father. You give us new life and power to serve you. Please help us to tell our friends about you. Help us always to follow you, serve you, please you and love you. We pray this for your name's sake.

Amen.