

SPIRITUAL DIGEST

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" IS PRAYER YOUR
STEERING WHEEL
OR YOUR SPARE
TIRE ? "

— CORRIE TEN
BOOM



PRAYER BEING NEEDED FOR GOD'S MOVE

Acts 10:30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago to this hour I was praying at the ninth hour in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing

Acts 10:9 ...Peter went up on the housetop to pray around the sixth hour.

Acts 10:10...a trance came upon him;

After the vision of Cornelius (10:1-8), we have the vision of Peter (10:9-16). Cornelius received a vision in prayer, and Peter also received a vision in prayer, through which God's plan and move were carried out. Man's prayer is needed as a means of cooperation with God's move. In chapter ten of Acts there is a strong emphasis on the importance of prayer. First we have Cornelius' prayer and then Peter's prayer. The prayers of these two men became the means for the Lord to come in to

open the door for the Gentiles. While Cornelius, a devout man, was praying, a vision came to him. Likewise, it was while Peter was praying that the vision recorded in this chapter came to him. From this we see that we all need to learn to have a prayer life, for a prayer life always prepares the way for the Lord's move and opens the gate for Him to spread. The record does indicate that they set aside certain times for prayer, that they prayed according to a schedule. Acts 10:3 says that Cornelius was praying at the ninth hour, at three o'clock in the afternoon, and 10:9 says that Peter was praying at the sixth hour, at twelve o'clock noon. From this we see that they had a prayer life and even prayed at scheduled times. If we have such a prayer life according to set times, we shall be used by Him in opening the way for the spread of His recovery.



THE LORD HAVING BORNE ALL OUR SINS

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Heb 9:28 So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many...

10:10 By which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

If a Christian becomes careless and sins by mistake, if he is overtaken by sins, what should he do? How can he recover his fellowship with God? To take care of this matter, we must first realize that the Lord Jesus has borne all our sins on the cross. All the sins which we have committed, as well as those we are committing and will commit during our whole life, were borne by the Lord on the cross. However, on the day we believed

in the Lord, under God's light we only saw the sins that we had committed before we had believed. A man can only be conscious of the sins which God shines His light upon; he cannot feel the sins which he has not yet committed. Therefore, the actual sins the Lord Jesus bore on the cross are more than the sins that we see. The Lord Jesus bore all of our sins on the cross, but we see only the sins which we have committed. We must realize that even the sins that we are not conscious of are included in the Lord Jesus' redemption. In other words, the Lord took away the sins of our whole life on the cross. Although, when we first believed in the Lord, we only felt the forgiveness of our past sins, in actuality, the Lord took away all our sins, even those we commit after we are saved. We must understand this fact before we can understand how to recover our fellowship with God.

B I B L E J O K E S !

1. What time of day was Adam created?
2. Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?
3. What type of car did the disciples drive in Acts?
4. What kind of person was Boaz before he got married?
5. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?



A Seed Prepared by God

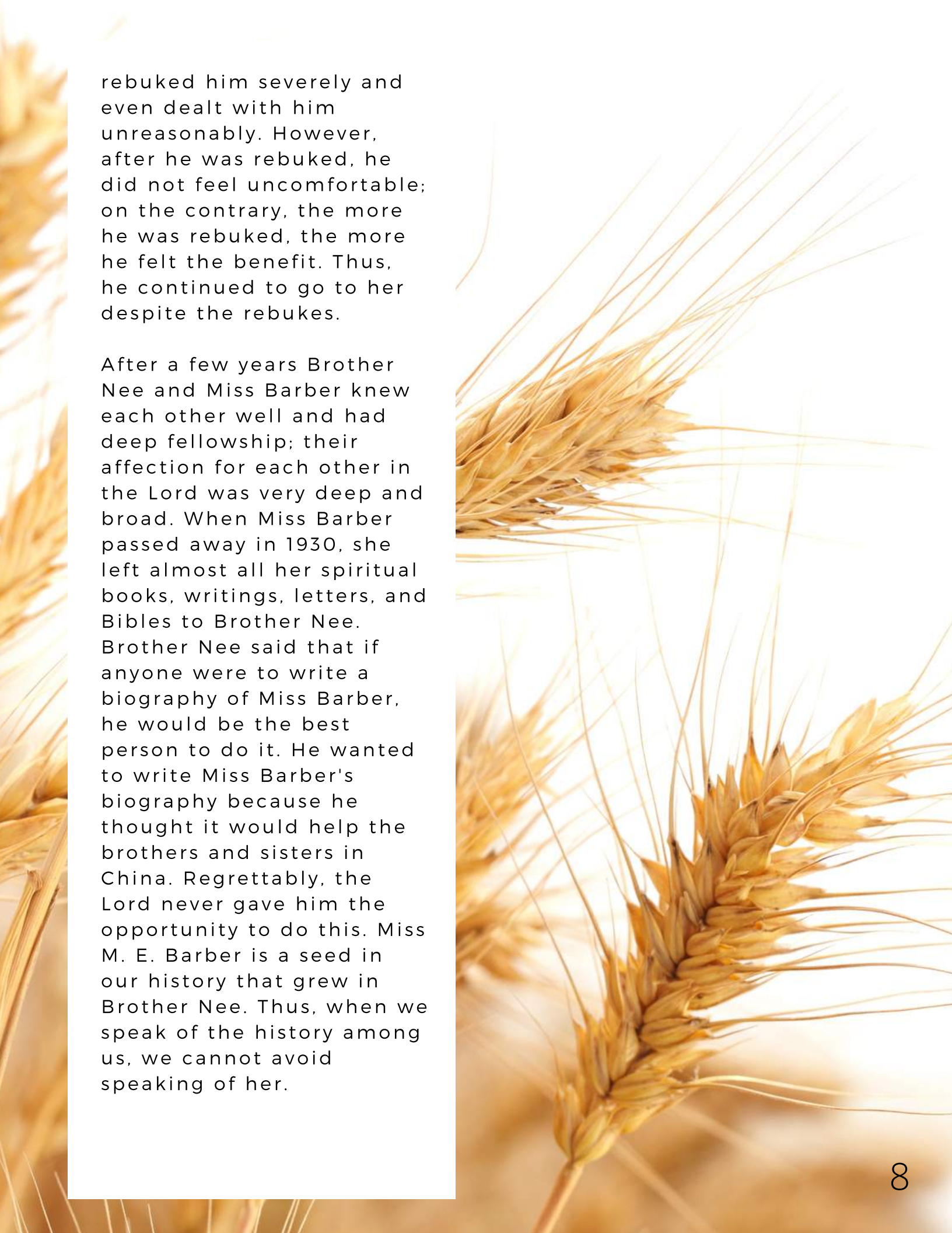
Sister M. E. Barber, an English woman, is related to the genealogy of the Lord's recovery. When Brother Watchman Nee received the Lord, Sister M. E. Barber had been living in China for more than ten years. Initially, she was a missionary sent by a mission board to China in order to preach the gospel. However, because her co-workers were jealous of her, they fabricated charges against her and presented them to the English mission board. She had learned of the Lord not to vindicate herself. She did not disclose that she had been falsely accused until the chairman of the mission board said to her, "As your authority, I order you to tell me everything and not to hide anything." After this matter passed, she felt that she could no longer remain with the mission. After another period of time, she felt that she should return to China, and the Lord opened a way for her to go. She came to Foochow at the mouth of the Min River and lived at Bai-Ya-Tan across from Mawei.

The history of the church in China shows that M. E. Barber was the first strong witness in China. She lived purely before the Lord and knew much of the cross and the Lord's life. Her deep experiences are evident in the hymns she wrote. One reads, "If there's less of earth joy, / Give, Lord, more of heaven. / Let the spirit praise Thee, / Though the heart be riven... / Lonely though the pathway, / Cheer it with Thy smile; / Be Thou my companion / Through earth's little while" (Hymns, #377). Another hymn she wrote is "He faileth not, for He is God" (Hymns, #693); this hymn is familiar to many people in Christianity. In addition, she also wrote other hymns, such as "Deep down into the depths of this Thy Name" (Hymns, #671), "Via Bethlehem we journey" (Hymns, #628), and "To the foe my word is always, 'No'" (Hymns, #880).

Brother Nee not only mentioned Miss Barber in his messages; he also mentioned her a few times when I spoke to him privately. Every time he mentioned her, I received a deep impression. He said

that every time he went to see Miss Barber, as he sat in the living room waiting for her, he would sense the presence of the Lord. On one occasion in 1936, as we were discussing the work and the service, Brother Nee sighed and said, "If only Miss Barber were still alive, our condition today would be completely different." He also once said, "When I visited Europe and America in 1933, I visited spiritual people in both places, but it was not easy to find even one who could compare with Miss Barber. There was only one brother who seemed to be comparable to her." Brother Nee said this in 1935, only two years after he returned from England. This shows that Miss M. E. Barber was very deep in her relationship with God; she genuinely knew God. She is a very weighty person in our history.

A number of other young people around the same age as Brother Nee also went to Miss Barber for her teaching. Regrettably, after a short time they left, one after another, because Miss Barber rebuked people severely. Brother Nee testified that Miss Barber



rebuked him severely and even dealt with him unreasonably. However, after he was rebuked, he did not feel uncomfortable; on the contrary, the more he was rebuked, the more he felt the benefit. Thus, he continued to go to her despite the rebukes.

After a few years Brother Nee and Miss Barber knew each other well and had deep fellowship; their affection for each other in the Lord was very deep and broad. When Miss Barber passed away in 1930, she left almost all her spiritual books, writings, letters, and Bibles to Brother Nee. Brother Nee said that if anyone were to write a biography of Miss Barber, he would be the best person to do it. He wanted to write Miss Barber's biography because he thought it would help the brothers and sisters in China. Regrettably, the Lord never gave him the opportunity to do this. Miss M. E. Barber is a seed in our history that grew in Brother Nee. Thus, when we speak of the history among us, we cannot avoid speaking of her.

A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E
W A Y



Fallen, That's The Way We All Begin

1

Fallen, that's the way we all begin:
Imprisoned by the evil fate we're in.
How can we from this hard world of sin
be saved?

Chorus

Just by calling, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus."
Every moment, each day!
Calling on the name of Jesus—
We're finding is the way.
It's Jesus, Lord Jesus!

2

Even though we love the Lord so much,
Somehow, it seems we get out of touch
With Jesus. How can we be freed from such
distress?

3

Sometimes we know we aren't being real
Then times, we just live by how we feel.
Is there some way we could ever deal
with self?

4

Christians, scattered throughout all the earth
Are wand'ring—Lord, where is Your Bride of worth?
How can all those of the second birth
be one?

MATTHEW 26

WEEKLY BIBLE CHAPTER READS

Mt 26:1 And when Jesus finished all these words, He said to His disciples,

Mt 26:2 You know that after two days the Passover takes place, and the Son of Man is being delivered up to be crucified.

Mt 26:3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the courtyard of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

Mt 26:4 And they took counsel together to seize Jesus by craftiness and kill Him.

Mt 26:5 But they said, Not at the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.

Mt 26:6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

Mt 26:7 A woman came to Him, having an alabaster flask of ointment of great

value, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at table.

Mt 26:8 But when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, Why this waste?

Mt 26:9 For this could have been sold for much and given to the poor.

Mt 26:10 But Jesus, knowing it, said to them, Why do you trouble the woman? She has done a noble deed to Me.

Mt 26:11 For the poor you have with you always, but you do not always have Me.

Mt 26:12 For in pouring out this ointment on My body, she has done it for My burial.

Mt 26:13 Truly I say to you, Wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done shall also be told as a memorial of her.

Mt 26:14 At that time one of the twelve, the one called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests

Mt 26:15 And said, What are you willing to give me, and I will deliver Him to you? And they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver.

Mt 26:16 And from then on he sought opportunity to deliver Him up.

Mt 26:17 Now on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus, saying, Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the passover?

Mt 26:18 And He said, Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, The Teacher says, My time is near. I am keeping the passover at your house with My disciples.

Mt 26:19 And the disciples did as Jesus directed them, and they prepared the passover.

Mt 26:20 And when evening fell, He reclined at table with the twelve.

Mt 26:21 And as they were eating, He said, Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me.

Mt 26:22 And being greatly grieved, each one of them began to say to Him, I am not the one, am I, Lord?

Mt 26:23 And He answered and said, The one who dips his hand with Me in the dish, this one will betray Me.

Mt 26:24 The Son of Man is going away, even as it is written concerning Him, but woe to that man through whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.

Mt 26:25 And Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, I am not the one, am I, Rabbi? He said to him, You have said it yourself.

Mt 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body.

Mt 26:27 And He took a cup and gave thanks, and He gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of you,

Mt 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Mt 26:29 But I say to you, I shall by no means drink of this product of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of My Father.

Mt 26:30 And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Mt 26:31 Then Jesus said to them, You will all be stumbled because of Me this night, for it is written, "I will smite the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

Mt 26:32 But after I have been raised, I will go before you into Galilee.

Mt 26:33 Then Peter answered and said to Him, If all will be stumbled because of You, I will never be stumbled.

Mt 26:34 Jesus said to him, Truly I say to you that in this night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.

Mt 26:35 Peter said to Him, Even if I must die with You, I will by no means deny You. And all the disciples said likewise.

Mt 26:36 Then Jesus came

with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to the disciples, Sit here while I go over there and pray.

Mt 26:37 And taking Peter and the two sons of Zebedee aside, He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

Mt 26:38 Then He said to them, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch with Me.

Mt 26:39 And going forward a little, He fell on His face and prayed, saying, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.

Mt 26:40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter, So were you not able to watch with Me for one hour?

Mt 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Mt 26:42 Again, going away a second time, He prayed, saying, My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.

Mt 26:43 And coming again, He found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

Mt 26:44 And leaving them, He went away again and prayed a third time, saying the same word again.

Mt 26:45 Then He came to the disciples and said to them, Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour has drawn near, and the Son of Man is being delivered up into the hands of sinners.

Mt 26:46 Arise, let us be going. Behold, the one who is betraying Me has drawn near.

Mt 26:47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Mt 26:48 Now the one who was betraying Him had given them a sign, saying, Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him.

Mt 26:49 And immediately he came to Jesus and said, Rejoice, Rabbi, and kissed Him affectionately.

Mt 26:50 But Jesus said to him, Friend, what are you here for? Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

Mt 26:51 And behold, one of those with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and took off his ear.

Mt 26:52 Then Jesus said to him, Return your sword to its place, for all those who take up the sword will perish by the sword.

Mt 26:53 Or do you think that I cannot beseech My Father, and He will provide Me at once with more than twelve legions of angels?

Mt 26:54 How then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must happen this way?

Mt 26:55 In that hour Jesus said to the crowds, Have you come out as against a robber with swords and clubs to arrest Me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me.

Mt 26:56 But all this has happened in order that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled. Then all the

disciples left Him and fled.

Mt 26:57 And those who seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.

Mt 26:58 And Peter followed Him at a distance to the courtyard of the high priest; and entering within, he sat with the attendants to see the end.

Mt 26:59 Now the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were seeking false testimony against Jesus so that they might put Him to death,

Mt 26:60 And they did not find it, though many false witnesses came forward. But later two came

Mt 26:61 And said, This man said, I am able to destroy the temple of God and build it up in three days.

Mt 26:62 And the high priest stood up and said to Him, Do You answer nothing? What is it that these testify against You?

Mt 26:63 But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to Him, I charge You to swear by the living God to

tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God.

Mt 26:64 Jesus said to him, You have said rightly. Nevertheless I say to you, From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Mt 26:65 Then the high priest tore his garments, saying, He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, now you have heard the blasphemy.

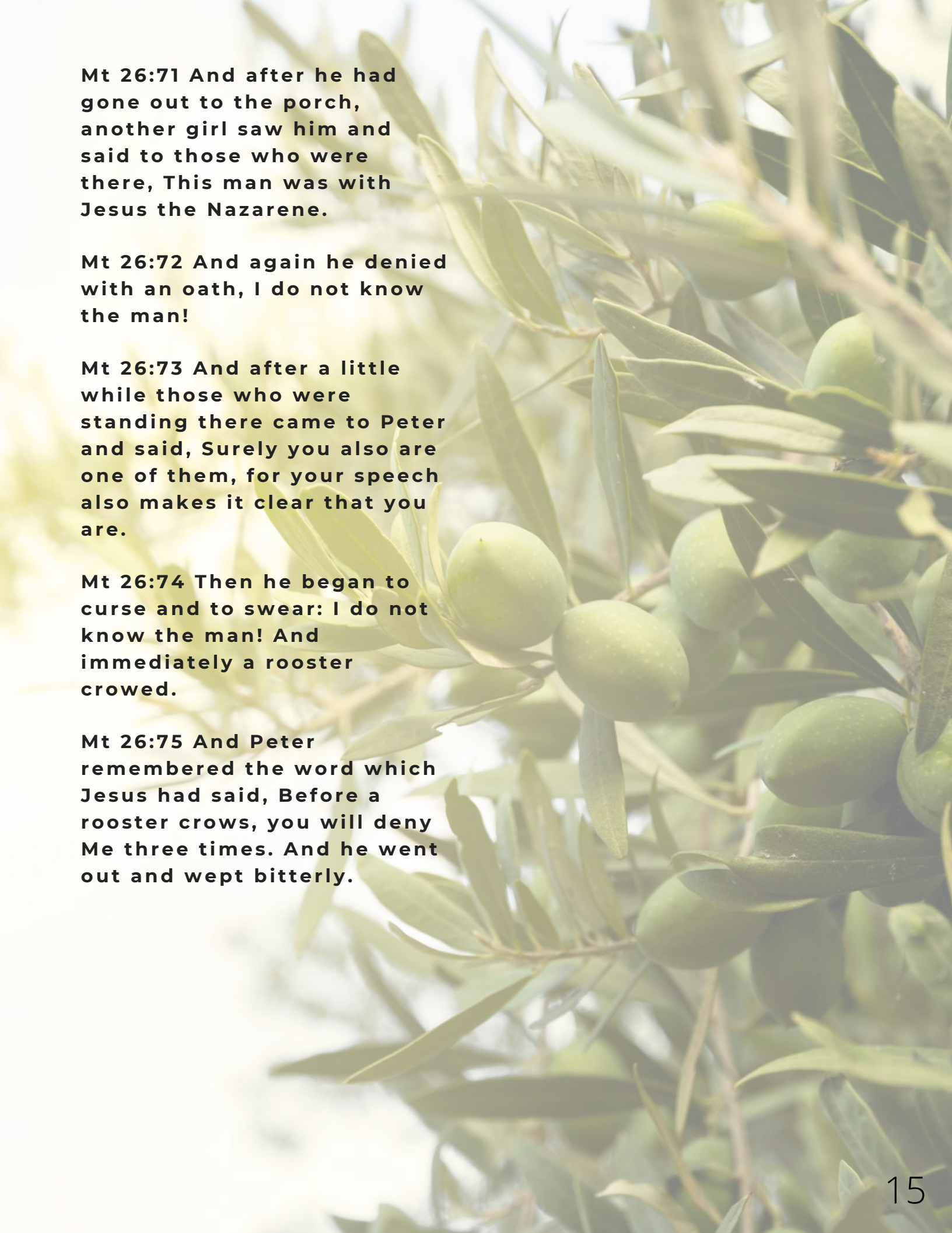
Mt 26:66 What do you think? And they answered and said, He is worthy of death.

Mt 26:67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists, and others slapped Him,

Mt 26:68 Saying, Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who hit You?

Mt 26:69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him and said, You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

Mt 26:70 But he denied it before all, saying, I do not know what you are talking about!



Mt 26:71 And after he had gone out to the porch, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.

Mt 26:72 And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man!

Mt 26:73 And after a little while those who were standing there came to Peter and said, Surely you also are one of them, for your speech also makes it clear that you are.

Mt 26:74 Then he began to curse and to swear: I do not know the man! And immediately a rooster crowed.

Mt 26:75 And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times. And he went out and wept bitterly.



last week...

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE
BIBLE? ANSWERS!**

1. C
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. A