

COME INTO THE WORD

with Sarah Christmyer

IV. LISTEN TO THE LORD: HE CALLS YOU TO LIFE!

The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1–44); Psalm 130

“My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!” (Psalm 130:6,7)

Reflect on the Talk

1. Did Jesus only come so that we could go to heaven? What is eternal life?
2. Put yourself in the place of Lazarus as you reflect on this gospel. How does it speak to you?
3. Is there some way in which you feel in the dark, or as though in a grave? What is one thing you can do to tune your ears to hear his voice?
4. In Psalm 130, the psalmist—even from the depths of his pain—waits and waits in hope. Sarah said such hope is not just wishful thinking. Why not?

Pray with the Word (lectio divina)

Continue praying with the gospel of the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:4–42) or with Psalm 42 using this guide:

PRAY + *Come Holy Spirit, speak to me as I read your Word.*

(continued)



READ

Read the passage several times. What word or words stand out to you? Write them here and pause a moment with them. Receive them in your heart, listening closely for the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

REFLECT

Is there anything about this Scripture that you want to remember from Sarah's reflection on it? Do you have any new insights? Meditate where you feel drawn, and keep your heart open to hear.

RESPOND

As you continue your meditation, allow it to become a conversation between you and the Lord. If you are reflecting on Psalm 130, you may find your voice in its words – if so, pray them with intention. Or if he speaks to your heart about something, answer. Talk to the Lord about what you hear.

REST + Remain quiet for a moment in his loving embrace.

PRAY

+ Lord, inspire me to read your Scriptures and to meditate upon them day and night. I beg you to give me real understanding of what I read, that I in turn may put its precepts into practice. Yet I know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love. So, I ask that the words of Scripture may also be not just signs on a page, but channels of grace into my heart. Amen (Origen of Alexandria)

Put Word into Action – *“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.” (Lk 11:28)*

- During Holy Week, either daily or on Friday, consider following the age-old practice of praying with the Penitential Psalms (of which Psalm 130 is just one). [This free download](#) explains how.
- For a way to more deeply meditate on the readings throughout the week either leading up to or following Sunday, download [40 Days in the Word: Pondering the Scriptures for Lent & Easter – Yr A](#).
- You might also like [“10 Ways to Keep the Word in Your Heart”](#).

God bless you as you read his Word!

