

## Praying with the Women of the New Testament

### Session 4

**Opening Prayer:** “Our souls proclaim the greatness of the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. Lord Jesus, teach us to pray. Mother Mary, pray for us.”

**QUOTE #1 Mt. 15:21-28** <sup>21</sup> And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon.” <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.” <sup>24</sup> He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup> And he answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup> She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

**QUOTE #2 Judith 8:15-17** <sup>15</sup> For if he does not choose to help us within these five days, he has power to protect us within any time he pleases, or even to destroy us in the presence of our enemies. <sup>16</sup> Do not try to bind the purposes of the Lord our God; for God is not like man, to be threatened, nor like a human being, to be won over by pleading. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, while we wait for his deliverance, let us call upon him to help us, and he will hear our voice, if it pleases him.

**QUOTE #3** “Thus, the purpose of prayer is perhaps less to obtain what we ask than to become someone else. We should go further and say that asking something from God transforms us, little by little, into people capable of sometimes doing without what we ask for.” (Fr. Bernard Bro)

**QUOTE #4 Lk 7:11-15** <sup>11</sup> Soon afterward he went to a city called Na’in, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. <sup>12</sup> As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. <sup>13</sup> And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” <sup>14</sup> And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” <sup>15</sup> And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother.

**QUOTE #5 Rom 8:26** “The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.”

**QUOTE #6 Jn 20:1-2, 8-18** Now on the first day of the week Mary Mag'dalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him" ... <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples went back to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup>Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rab-bo'ni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." <sup>18</sup>Mary Mag'dalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**Closing Prayer: "Father, Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light on our path. May it be done to us according to Your word. St. Photina, pray for us. St. Martha, pray for us. St. Mary Magdalene, pray for us."**