

\* Prayers Anchored in the  
Gospel of John  
John 1:19-28

Wednesday, Day 11

\* Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light, that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist John, may so walk in the light of your truth, that at length we may attain to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

\* [www.bcponline.org](http://www.bcponline.org)

\* **The Collect**  
Collecting your thoughts so you can focus  
on God.

<sup>19</sup> Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders<sup>[c]</sup> in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup> He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

<sup>21</sup> They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup> Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

<sup>24</sup> Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup> questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup> "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup> He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup> This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

 **Scripture**

\* This is a time when you will want to reflect (pray) on some part of the passage (John 1: 19-28) so that you and God are communicating. It can be a time for questions to God or to put into words some of the stirrings in your heart.

“They ask him why he is baptizing, but he does not respond to their question. ” Intersity Press Commentary

<http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/ivp-nt/John-Baptist-Witnesses-About-Himself>

It is often very important to divert attention away from yourself and towards Jesus as John does in the next section. He refused to get drawn into a complex theological discussion.

\* **Meditation**

- \* “If all you do is return to God’s presence after distraction, then this is very good prayer. Your persistence shows how much you want to be with God.” Francis de Sales
- \* A Suggested Prayer: “Jesus, I know that Satan will set many traps to distract me from pointing my whole life towards You. Open my eyes so that I can see what is legitimate and what is not. I ask that I will not be drawn into idle speculation but will be secure enough to redirect conversations back to introducing people to You. Teach me John’s humility to care little about my reputation and to bubble over about who you are and what You came to do. Amen” Len Thompson

# \* Meditation

\*“A man who is intimate with God is not intimidated by man.”

— [Leonard Ravenhill](#)

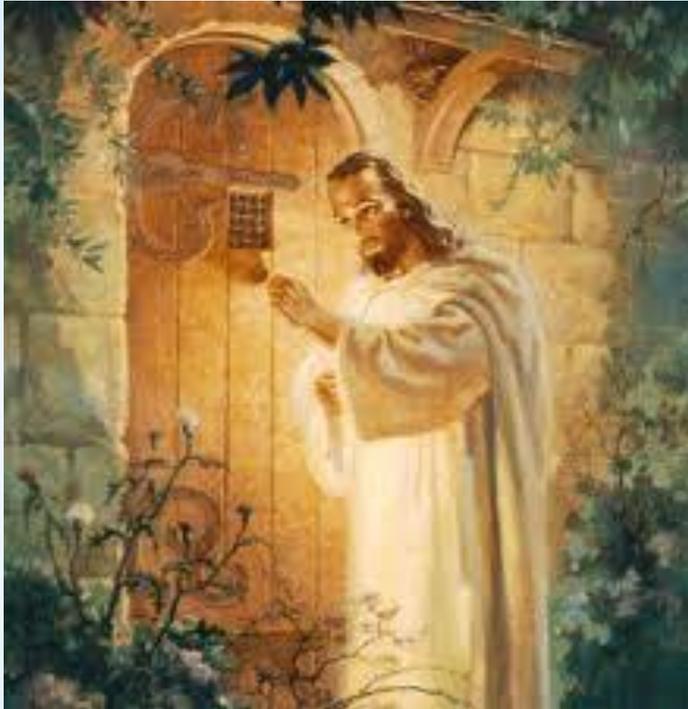
\*With vision there is no room to be frightened., No reason for intimidation. It's time to march forward! Let's be confident and positive! [Charles Swindoll](#)

\***Meditation**

## Psalm 141 (NIV)

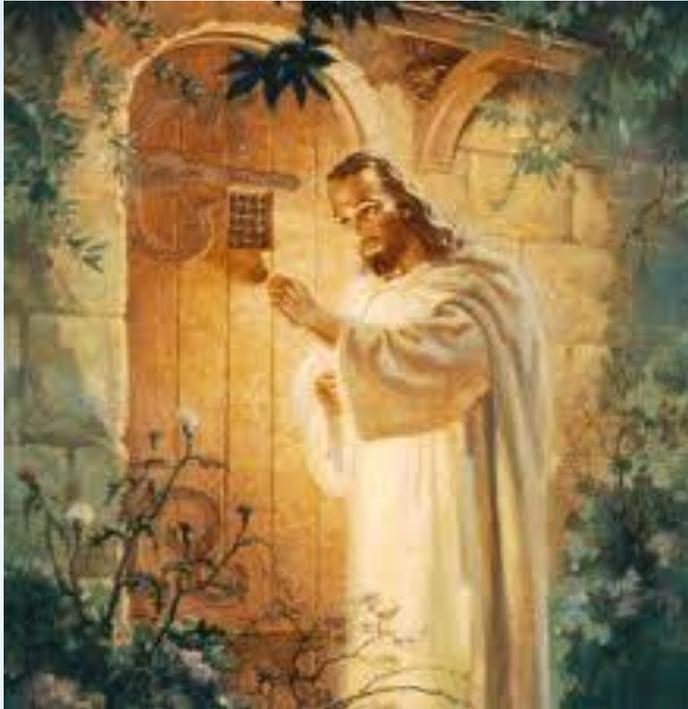
### A psalm of David.

- <sup>1</sup> I call to you, LORD, come quickly to me;  
hear me when I call to you.
- <sup>2</sup> May my prayer be set before you like incense;  
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.
- <sup>3</sup> Set a guard over my mouth, LORD;  
keep watch over the door of my lips.
- <sup>4</sup> Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil  
so that I take part in wicked deeds  
along with those who are evildoers;  
do not let me eat their delicacies.
- <sup>5</sup> Let a righteous man strike me—that is a kindness;  
let him rebuke me—that is oil on my head.  
My head will not refuse it,  
for my prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers.
- <sup>6</sup> Their rulers will be thrown down from the cliffs,  
and the wicked will learn that my words were well spoken.
- <sup>7</sup> They will say, “As one plows and breaks up the earth,  
so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave.”
- <sup>8</sup> But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign LORD;  
in you I take refuge—do not give me over to death.
- <sup>9</sup> Keep me safe from the traps set by evildoers,  
from the snares they have laid for me.
- <sup>10</sup> Let the wicked fall into their own nets,  
while I pass by in safety



\* Talk with God about what distracts you and keeps you from living out the instructions Jesus gives to you day by day. Maybe today is a day to let go of some things that you really do not need to carry. Maybe if you drop them there will be more room for Jesus.

\* Prayer



\* Pray for those who are constantly under attack because they keep introducing people to Jesus. Some will even martyred today. Pray that they will keep faith as John did even to his last day.

\* Prayer

May God keep you safe from the traps set by evildoers,

from the snares they have laid for you.

<sup>10</sup> Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while you pass by in safety.

Adapted from Ps. 141:9-10

 **Blessing**