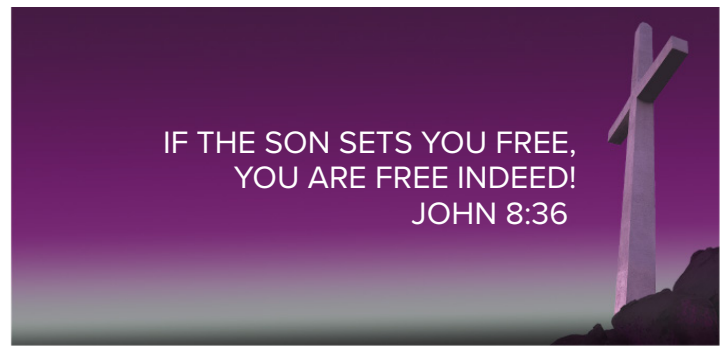


# Jesus IOI

## “Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

*“Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.” –John 11:41*

There are people who seem to have such a deep connection with God, that when they pray all of heaven appears to come closer to listen. My father-in-law was one of those people. His prayers seemed to be so effective, with a child-like faith, that when anyone in the family had a pressing problem, they immediately called him to pray. I believe that we all have direct access to God in prayer, and that we don't need intermediaries. Still, some prayer warriors have adopted an intercessory prayer lifestyle that God honors, responds to, and is pleased with.

Jesus prayed at all times and in diverse circumstances. He prayed with thanksgiving (Matthew 11:25), He prayed for the Father's will to be done (Mark 14:36), He prayed for particular people (see Luke 22:31, 32), and He prayed when He gave up His Spirit (Luke 23:46). Jesus prayed in unparalleled intimacy with His Father. But there is a prayer of Jesus that breaks my heart. It is a public prayer that He prayed for the sake of those standing around. The stone from Lazarus' tomb had been removed. "Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, 'Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that you sent Me' " (John 11:41, 42). Jesus doesn't ask for power or pray for God to hear His request for a resurrection. He thanks His Father that His request has already been heard ahead of time (see verse 42). Jesus knew that His Father always heard Him. This time Jesus prays that those who are about to witness this climactic sign might believe in Him, that they might come to understand that the Father has sent Him. The Jews had the Scriptures, they had the law and the Sabbath, they had dietary rules they followed, but they didn't believe that God had sent Jesus as the Messiah. What would Jesus pray about if we were His audience? Perhaps He would pray that we may believe that His sacrifice was more than sufficient and therefore live without fear of the future. Perhaps He would pray that we may fully rest in His salvific work, filled with the joy of salvation and the assurance of His ultimate victory. In Jesus' name: Amen!

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!*, p. 233.