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Notes of a Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves
at "Ebenezer", Clapham on Monday evening 7.2.55
Hymns: 26, 519 Reading: Acts 1 and Psalm 133

These disciples had been witnesses of a most remarkable event. They were with the Lord when He was taken from them and a cloud received Him out of their sight. They must never have forgotten that. While they were thus looking heavenwards two men in white apparel said, "Why stand ye gazing up into heaven, this same Jesus which is taken from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." It is just this word that is so sweet, it must always be this same Jesus, there will never be another, we shall never need another. It was that same Jesus who in the fulness of time did condescend to take our nature upon Him, and upon this earth He suffered, bled and died. It was that same Jesus who groaned in the garden of Gethsemane under an inconceivable weight of imputed guilt. It was that same Jesus whose holy hands and feet were nailed to the cross and who immediately before He expired said, "It is finished". It was that same Jesus whose precious blood was shed, from whom blood and water did freely flow when His holy side was pierced, it was that same Jesus who rose again from the dead and appeared wonderfully to Mary Magdalene in the garden and made Himself known to her. That same Jesus later appeared to His disciples on different occasions and did confirm them saying to them, "Peace be unto you".

It was the same Jesus who took those disciples out as far as to Bethany, while He was blessing them, and that has often been so sweet, as it is recorded in Luke, "As He was blessing them He was taken up from them into heaven." And it is the same Jesus who is there now, who is my hope, who is your hope sometimes, not perhaps very often, but sometimes. I seem to have seen Him there, and have felt a little, only a little, like good Richard Dore felt with whom it was as though the heavens opened and he said, 'There is a man in heaven whom I love and who loves me'. O I believe I can understand him and I know some of you can understand him. O what a mercy it is to get a glimpse of Him and everytime you do it is the same Jesus, and it must be the same Jesus who blesses your soul and who blesses my soul. It is the same Jesus who has

all blessings to give, blessings to impart, grace to save thee from thy fears. O what a wonderful mercy it is for poor things like you and me to know Him, to know this same Jesus. Nearly two thousand years have passed away since then but He is just the same Jesus, the same yesterday, today and for ever; and if when we die it shall be with us, "Absent from the body, present with the Lord", then it will be for ever with this same Jesus. O friends, has there been just a moment or two when you have felt you could love Him? If that has truly been so then one day you will see Him without a veil between and He will be the same Jesus. He must be the same Jesus because there has never been another Jesus, neither will there ever be, all-glorious Person that He is. Why did they give Him this name? Why, because He shall save His people from their sins. That is what you need, that is what I need. If we have felt that then the blessing came from this same Jesus whom these disciples saw ascend up into heaven. After this took place, the disciples gathered themselves together again, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus. It is said that they "continued with one accord in prayer and supplication". I should think they had some wonderful prayer meetings, some moving occasions. It is good to notice here, which is confirmed in other places, that it was with one accord they continued with the promise before them, in prayer and supplication. They did not say, O well the Holy Spirit is promised us and it will be all right. No, it would seem to have urged them on all the more. They continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. Contact with God is one of the most amazing things that can ever be, the most sacred and the most blessed, and it is a prayer meeting indeed when contact with God in Christ, by this same Jesus, is felt in the heart. I believe it has been so here sometimes. May the Lord grant it to us often and give us to see again even another outpouring of His good Spirit in our midst. Amen

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