

AND
HE WALKS
with Me



365 DAILY REMINDERS
OF JESUS'S LOVE
from
Our Daily Bread



Discovery House®
from Our Daily Bread Ministries

And He Walks with Me: 365 Daily Reminders of Jesus's Love from Our Daily Bread

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JANUARY 1

LIVING CLOSE TO JESUS

READ: 1 John 1:1–4

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. JOHN 1:3

A LARGE BRITISH NEWSPAPER once asked its readers for the best answer to this question, “What is the shortest way to London?”

The winning entry said simply, “The shortest way to London is good company!” We know how true that answer is! Loving companionship shortens any journey, however long.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we enjoy the good company of our Savior. We “walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8 NKJV), daily enjoying fellowship and communion with the Savior. The closer we come to Him, the more He’ll thrill us with His presence. While Jesus has no favorites, He does have intimates! They’re the ones who, like the apostle John, share with Him their love and devotion (See John 13:23).

A seventeenth-century bishop named Francois Fénelon wrote these instructive words regarding our relationship to the Lord: “Tell Him all that is in your heart like one who unloads his pent-up feelings to a dear friend. Blessed are they who attain to such familiar, unreserved interaction with Him.”

The journey to heaven, though often accompanied by trials, is shortened and made easier when Jesus Christ is our traveling companion.

Draw near to Him, for the joy of salvation comes only by living close to Jesus! —HENRY BOSCH

*The best way to enjoy your standing in Christ
is to begin walking with Christ!*

JANUARY 2

HOLD MY HAND

READ: Deuteronomy 31:1–8

“The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” DEUTERONOMY 31:8

THE WAVES OF LAKE MICHIGAN were high and splashing onto the pier one day as I followed a young family out to a lighthouse. I overheard the young girl say to her father: “Daddy, please walk alongside me and hold my hand at this scary part.”

Sometimes life can be scary for us too: Loss of loved ones. Financial woes. Health problems. As we carry these heavy burdens and cares, we long for a strong hand to hold ours to keep us steady and secure.

When Joshua took over the leadership of Israel, Moses reminded him of God’s help in tough times. In the difficult days to come, Joshua would need to remember to trust God and His promises. Moses said, “The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged” (Deuteronomy 31:8).

Isaiah 41:13 encourages us with these words from God: “For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.” When life gets scary, God is with us; we can hold His strong hand.

Jesus will walk alongside us and hold our hand at the “scary” parts. —ANNE CETAS

Fears flee in the light of God’s presence.

JANUARY 3

JESUS AND ME

READ: Psalm 143:1–6

*I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works
and consider what your hands have done.* PSALM 143:5

SOMETIMES OUR MINDS run back through the years and yearn for that better time and place—the “good old days.”

But for some, the past harbors only bitter memories. Deep in the night, they ponder their own failures, disillusionments, and fantasies, and think of the cruel hand life has dealt them.

It’s better to remember the past as David did, by contemplating the good that God has done, to “meditate on all [His] works; . . . and consider what [His] hands have done” (Psalm 143:5). As we call to mind the lovingkindness of the Lord, we can see His blessings through the years. These are the memories that foster the highest good. They evoke a deep longing for more of God and more of His tender care. They transform the past into a place of familiarity and fellowship with our Lord.

I heard a story about an elderly woman who would sit in silence for hours in her rocking chair, hands folded in her lap, eyes gazing off into the far distance. One day her daughter asked, “Mother, what do you think about when you sit there so quietly?” Her mother replied softly with a twinkle in her eye, “That’s just between Jesus and me.”

I pray that our memories and meditations would draw us into His presence.

—DAVID ROPER

*Fellowship with Christ is the secret
of happiness now and forever.*

JANUARY 4

HE'S WATCHING THE BOAT

READ: Mark 6:45–52

He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. MARK 6:48

JESUS WALKED ON WATER. That's astounding! It's a real miracle—an evidence of God's great power.

But something else happened in that story that should make us marvel even more. It has to do with Jesus's compassion and care for His friends.

After He put His disciples on a boat, Jesus went to the mountain to pray. But He didn't forget about them. He kept watching. When a strong wind kicked up waves and made their rowing a real struggle, He saw their plight. Soon He was by their side, calming their fears.

Tim, a friend of mine, read this passage and was impressed that Jesus watched the boat after He sent the disciples out into what He knew could quickly become stormy waters. As Tim reflected on the story, a truth came alive to him: Jesus watches us as we struggle and comes to our aid when we need it.

That insight took on new meaning for Tim a few days later when his doctor told him he had cancer. Tim knew there were some rough waters ahead, but he also knew that his Savior would be watching—ready to come to his assistance any time he struggled.

Are you facing tough times? Remember, Jesus is watching the boat.

—DAVE BRANON

*Though you can see nothing but trouble,
God will surely see you through.*

JANUARY 5

“HE LIVES DOWN THE STREET”

READ: John 15:1–5

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” JOHN 15:5

A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER had been telling her class about the wonderful qualities of Jesus when He lived on earth. Then she asked, “Where does Jesus live now?” She fully expected one of the youngsters to say, “In heaven,” but was surprised when a little girl from a poor section of town responded, “He lives down our street!” Apparently, someone lived in that child’s block whose life truly radiated the Lord Jesus. The youngster told of that person’s deeds of mercy and compassion. The spirit of Christlikeness was so obvious that the little girl thought it must be Jesus who lived on her street.

When we learn to abide in Christ, others will see Him reflected in what we do and say. Yet in our own strength we can’t produce a Christlike life. We can have it only when we yield to the Holy Spirit within us. As we stay connected with Christ through obedience and confession of sin, His life will flow through us. In a vineyard, for example, the branch does not struggle to produce fruit. As it draws nourishment unhindered from the vine, clusters of luscious grapes will naturally appear.

Likewise, as we in faith abide in Christ, His strength will flow through us, producing the very character of the Lord Jesus. The abiding life is a fruit-bearing life. —PAUL VAN GORDER

*God plants grace in our hearts that He may
reap its fruit from our lives.*

JANUARY 6

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

READ: John 12:42–50

“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” JOHN 12:46

DURING A TRIP TO PERU, I visited one of the many caves found throughout that mountainous country. Our guide told us that this particular cave had already been explored to a depth of nine miles—and it went even deeper. We saw fascinating bats, nocturnal birds, and interesting rock formations. Before long, however, the darkness of the cave became unnerving—almost suffocating. I was greatly relieved when we returned to the surface and the light of day.

That experience was a stark reminder of how oppressive darkness can be and how much we need light. We live in a world made dark by sin—a world that has turned against its Creator. And we need the Light.

Jesus, who came to restore all of creation—including humanity—to its intended place referred to himself as that “light” (John 8:12). “I have come into the world as a light,” He said, “so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness” (12:46).

In Him, we not only have the light of salvation but we also have the only light by which we can find our way—His way—through our world’s spiritual darkness. —BILL CROWDER

*When we walk in the Light,
we won’t stumble in the darkness.*

JANUARY 7

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

READ: Colossians 1:1–12

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you. COLOSSIANS 1:3

IN 1947, NADIA FROM Bulgaria and Millicent from the United States became pen pals. For years they swapped photos, school experiences, and dreams. Then their letters stopped when Bulgaria's government policy banned personal contact with the West.

After many years of political upheaval and change, Millicent, on a whim, sent a letter to the last address she had for Nadia. To their delight, the letter got through. Before long, they discovered that both had married doctors and both collected seashells. Forty-eight years after their first letter, the two friends finally met at Miami International Airport, where Millicent exclaimed, "Nadia! I would know you anywhere!"

The letters of the apostle Paul overflow with affection and gratitude for his friends. In his letter to the Colossians, he wrote: "We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you" (1:3). His letters also encouraged the Colossian people in their walk with Christ (v. 10).

Any friendship can be a gift from God. But nothing runs deeper than the relationships of those who share a bond in Christ. In fact, Jesus commanded His disciples: "Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12). In Him, friendships are treasures that will last forever.

—MART DEHAAN

A true friend is a gift from God.