

Selected readings from Morning and Evening: Daily Readings, By
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Reading 132

“Abide in me.” John 15:4

Communion with Christ is a certain cure for every ill. Whether it be the wormwood of woe, or the sickly sweet excess of earthly delight, close fellowship with the Lord Jesus will take bitterness from the one, and over abundance from the other. Live near to Jesus, Christian, and it is a matter of secondary importance whether you live on the mountain of honor or in the valley of humiliation. Living near to Jesus, you are covered with the wings of God, and underneath you are the everlasting arms. Let nothing keep you from that hallowed communion, which is the choice privilege of a soul wedded to the well-beloved.

Do not be content with an interview now and then, but seek always to retain his company, for only in his presence do you have either comfort or safety. Jesus should not be a friend who calls upon us now and then, but one with whom we walk always. You have a difficult road before you, O traveler to heaven, that you should not go without your guide. You must pass through the fiery furnace; do not enter unless, like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you have the Son of God to be your companion. You must storm the Jericho of your own corruptions: do not attempt the warfare until, like Joshua, you have seen the Captain of the Lord's host, with his sword drawn in his hand. You are to meet the Esau of your many temptations: do not meet him until at Jabbok's brook you have laid hold upon the angel, and prevailed.

In every case, in every condition, you will need Jesus; but most of all, when the iron gates of death shall open to you. Keep close to your soul's Husband, lean your head upon his bosom, ask to be refreshed with the spiced wine of his pomegranate, and you shall be found of him at the last, without spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing. Seeing you have lived with him, and lived in him here, you shall abide with him forever.