

A LETTER FROM JESUS

Dear You,

When you got up this morning, I was right there, eager to share the new day with you. But in the kitchen over coffee, you turned the radio on. Back in the bedroom it was a rush to get to work.

So I waited.

When the train was late you sat idle on the platform for fifteen minutes. I hoped you might share that time with me, but instead you phoned a friend to get the latest gossip. Finally, on the train, you buried yourself in the newspaper.

So I waited.

At work, of course, you were hectically busy all morning. At lunch I thought you might just remember me for a moment, because you paused just before you started to eat – but then you recognised some people nearby, and the moment was gone. As was the rest of the afternoon at work.

So I waited.

I hoped we might have a quiet word on the way home in the train, but you dozed off. At home there was supper to prepare, and then the various household jobs to do.

So I waited.

Finally, you had finished for the day. You collapsed in the chair with a hot drink and looked around you. I drew close to you, eager for you to turn to me. But you reached for the remote control..... I backed off. I know from experience that I can't win when it comes to competing with the T.V.

So I waited.

Now you are tucked up in bed again, worrying about various things and generally worn out. But sadly, you reach out to browse the latest issue of your favourite magazine. In a little while you will fall asleep and I shall take up my loving guard and protection over you for yet another night. I will wait for you again tomorrow.

Your Friend, JESUS.

PRAYER AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY

Lord, as I step out into this day in all the frailties and imperfections of my nature, I do not know what this day will bring. I do not know if You will bring me to the end of this day. I thank You for the life You have given me thus far, and I ask Your forgiveness that I have presumed upon, abused and violated Your many graces and mercies to me.

As I step out into this day, grant me, I pray, the grace of a deeper and deeper surrender to Your Will, a letting-go of the world, and to see Jesus always in front of me as the ultimate Goal beyond all the events of today. Grant me the grace to rest securely and serenely in Your Presence, and not to be overthrown and confused by the sudden changes of life. I am a frail earthen vessel, a phial of blood, a clod of earth. Help me toward a greater respect for my fragility – that I “hang like a drop of dew upon a blade of grass” entirely dependent upon Your Will and Favour.

Help me to live from each heart-beat and not to presume beyond it. Help me not to “grab” at what surrounds me and yet always to work harder in doing good, and with a greater commitment. May my walk today be, in every step, a pilgrimage in Thee. I do not know what storms may break upon this day or how troubled a sea it may be. Bless the source and the spring of this day, and bring me safely into the harbour at the eve of the day – that I may safely anchor in the haven with Thee. Glory to Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.