

The Friend who comes to us
in our friends
John 15:5

Wrentham July 7, 63 a.m.

It would be hard to find a person
who has not felt that God drew near
to him at some time or other
through nature -

THE PURITY OF THE DAWN
THE GLORY OF THE SKY AT SUNSET
THE MORNING CAROL OF THE BIRDS
THE MURMUR OF THE SEA AT NIGHT
THE STRENGTH OF THE HILLS
THE FREEDOM OF THE VALLEYS
THE MAJESTY OF THE STARS
THE SPLENDOR OF THE STORM.

All these things at some time or another, have
made God seem near us. There comes the hush of the
spirit that makes us feel the nearness of God.

NOW

If God can come close to us through lifeless
matter is it not reasonable to suppose that He
can come to us in a more real way through our
friends.....If He can speak to me through the
tones of the wind can He not speak to me in the
clear tones of a human voice?

There are many things that God uses to kinder
hush our spirits that we may dream and think..
There is a silence that is in the starry sky,
a sleep that is among the lonely hills...these are
His, His way of calming the spirit. And in the
calmness God comes. But here is my friend! His
trust in me, his love for me, his peace breathing
friendship...these certainly can be channels
through which God comes. Here is a quotation from
Browning.. "Hush, I pray you! What if this friend
happened to be God?"

"If ye abide in me and I IN YOU" Do you see that?
He can be in us and appear through us to our
friends.

No one would ever dream of saying that God does not in some way come to us. THE DANGER IS THAT WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE HIM WHEN HE COMES..WE MAY MISS HIM WHEN HE COMES.

When you pray in some perplexity or problem in life what do you expect? Do you expect a voice to come from the skys aside from some friends voice? Do they expect that if they will rise and open the Bible that God will guide to a passage that will give instructions? ONE MAN DID THIS AND THE VERSE TURNED TO READ LIKE THIS: "He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone" Another man went to the city to begin business. When he arrived at the R.R. station he did not know where to go to buy a shop so he decided that he would follow the first white horse that passed by. Don't you think that if he, after praying, had consulted some friend he would have come near the right decision than following the tail of a white horse? God can come closer to us through friends than He can through a horse of any color. "Hush I pray you! What if this friend happened to be God?" You know what he means God in the person.."If you abide in me an I IN You."

God has given you a wife, husband, or child. You have a problem, you are bruised from the harshness of the public, you seem to be whipped by surrounding circumstances and God seems far away...but members of the family are calm and stroke your forehead...Listen discouraged one what if these loved ones happen to be God speaking to your poor troubled heart...How else can He speak to you?

Jesus walked as a man with His disciples having the same temptations but never yielding...antagonism developed against HIM and he was put to death but a glorious morning came and the Apostles heard that He had risen from the dead. Do you not sur that they said, "Hush, I pray you..this one who we thought would set up an earthly Kingdom what if He were really God?"

Let us try to learn our lesson. God, whom we think at times is so far off, is near us in our friends.

Clinton C. Ray

uesday "I gave them Christ"

Here is a passage from "My Lady Of the Chimney Corner" By Alexander Irvine

God takes a hand wherever He can find it and just does what He likes with it.

Some times He takes a Bishop's hand and lays it on the head of a little child/ in benediction. And then He takes the hand of a doctor to relieve pain, and the hand of a mother to guide her child and some times he takes the hand of an awful critter like me to comfort a neighbor. But they are ALL hands touched by His spirit and His spirit is everywhere looking for hnds to use."

(Alexander Irvine)

It is a great thing to minister to bodies but highest ministry for doctors or ministers or any person is to minister to souls. HERE IS A LITTLE PICTURE OF WHAT I MEAN: *Letter from my. Mac R. Britchard 1942*

A darkened room of a hushed house where all voices are unsteady from emotions, In one corner sits and old white haired woman, sitting in a low chair, her face half hidden by on hand and her other hand is on the shoulder of a younger woman, little more than a girl sitting at her feet.

There is a fire in the grate. It flickers up now and then, fitfully, as if half afraid of asserting itself too merrily in that house of sorrow. Yet when it flickers up it lights up the gray hair of the old lady and the golden locks of the younger one. The younger had been married only three months and pneumonia killed her lover. It was the day after the funeral. The minister was standing back of them and the girl looked up and said, "Where is God? I have prayed to Him. I have asked Him to come and be near me in sorrow. Wher is He? Away somewhere above the sky, or something. Why does He not come near me and make me know He is near. You preached once on the Everlasting Arms, where are they?"

When her tears were dried a bit and the storm of emotion and temporary doubt were over the minister ran his fingers down the arm of the

aged woman and pressing the arm a little tighter around the girl's shoulder and said "They are here They are around you even now. These are the arms of God. You say "Where is He?" You say "Why does He not come near?" Hush I pray you, what if this friend happens to be God?

