

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

Where Is Your Garden?

BY UNKNOWN

"I come to the garden alone, while
the dew is still on the roses: And the
voice I hear, falling on my ear: the
Son of God is calling"(In the Garden)

Recently I listened to this old hymn
by C. Austin Miles with fresh ears. As
a child, my mood would turn gray
and my heart would fill with sadness
when singing this song. Perhaps I
associated the tune with funerals for
members at our small country
congregation or maybe it was
because we sang it slowly, with
emphasis on the fermatas (held
notes). Today I find the spiritually
inspired hymn warmly reassuring.
Reading the passage in John 20, Mr.
Miles pictured Mary's encounter with
her beloved friend Jesus. She had
just been an eyewitness to His
agonizing death on the cross. Then
His burial among the olive trees in
the garden, near the Kidron Valley,
by Joseph and Nicodemus. "But
Mary stood without at the sepulcher
weeping ... Jesus said to her,
'Woman, why do you weep?'
Jesus said to her, 'Mary'.

She turned herself and said to Him,
'Rabboni', which is to say, Master."
(John 20:11, 15, 16)

The image made such an
impression Mr. Miles penned the
words to the famous song:

"He speaks and the sound of His
voice, Is so sweet the birds hush
their singing; And the melody that
He gave to me, Within my heart is
ringing."

Mary went to the garden because
her heart was breaking. She
thought she had lost her precious
friend and teacher. However, the
opposite was true; she found her
Savior in the early morning hours.
His whispered word, "Mary"
opened her eyes and calmed her
fears. When I am hurting, I go to my
Garden alone and read the
thoughts penned by God-inspired
King David. The psalmist seems to
understand my hurt. He puts into
words what I am struggling to
communicate. I also read the
gospels, containing life-lessons
from the One who can relate to my
struggles better than anyone else
can.

TWIN CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

810 Southwest Parkway East
College Station, TX 77840
(979) 693-1758

Meeting Times

Sunday Bible Class | Online
Sunday Worship | 10am or 5pm
Wednesday Bible Class | 7pm

Elders

Rodney Bane (281) 682-7912
Dana Degarmo (979) 777-0321
Scott Goble (979) 820-2088
Jim Henson (936) 825-6682
Mike McCasland (979) 255-4135

Evangelist

Curtis Pope (281) 655-7558

Sunday Bible Class

Online: *The Holy Spirit*

Wednesday Bible Class

Auditorium: *Christian Evidences*

www.twincitychurchofchrist.org

Christ gives assurance that He is waiting for my arrival, preparing a special home in Heaven (John 14:1-4). The flowers I pick in the Garden vary with each circumstance. Their fragrance is calming, giving hope and assurance.

"I'd stay in the garden with Him,
Though the night around me is falling,
But He bids me go through a voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling."

When I feel I have lost my focus or desire to serve, I ask a friend to accompany me to my Garden. This special friend may provide a needed hug or necessary chastising words. A true friend is one who is willing to confront with advice that will bring about repentance or a renewed dedication. This flower may be a rose that pricks and causes a need for healing. My Garden is not a place of residence. I do not need to linger there long, the sadness needs to turn to rejoicing (Phil. 4:4).

"And He walks with me and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own.
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known."

*"Where is your Garden?
How often do you meditate there?
Does it strengthen you?
Are you comforted knowing Jesus is walking with you?"*

Christ has promised I will never be alone; He will be there when I call to Him in prayer (Mk 11:24). His light will guide me through the dark moments of life's temptations (Matt. 6:13, I Cor. 10:13). My heart warms as I hear Him call me His own. When He is with me who can be against me? (Romans 8:31) As I leave my Garden, Christ walks with me. Oh, the joy and peace this brings!

Christ had His Garden, going there just before He offered Himself as a sacrifice for my sins. He called on His Father to remove the trials that were intimate. His Father responded by sending angels to provide comfort (Lk. 22:41-44). Where is your Garden? How often do you meditate there? Does it strengthen you? Are you comforted knowing Jesus is walking with you? I may, "come to the Garden alone," but "He walks with me and talks with me."

WEEKLY MEDITATION

"But I call to God, and the Lord will save me. Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice. He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me. God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, because they do not change and do not fear God."

PSALM 55:16-19 (ESV)

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Prayer Groups

Monthly | Sunday PM

See group leader

Ladies' Bible Study

Wednesdays | 10:00 AM

At the building

College Ladies' Devo

Thursdays | 7:00 PM

At the building

College Men's Devo

Thursdays | 7:00 PM

At the building

College Students' Devo

Fridays | 7:00 PM

At the building