



Day Twenty-One

Awakening to God's Presence

There are many ways
to carry out the imitation of Jesus.
All of them can be summed up in a phrase:
“Study Jesus Christ.”
When we study him,
we get to know him.
As we come to know him,
we love him.
And because we love him,
we desire and strive to imitate him.
We have to begin with knowing him,
his teaching and his life.
This isn't at all like
knowing the facts and stories
about the life of some celebrity.
This is about love.
We must study and reflect on
the details of the life of Jesus
so that we can know the depth of his love.
We must be filled
with the spirit of his example.
Then, we will come to see
the meaning of his teaching.
We will realize the extent of his mercy.
As we pray for the gift of understanding,
we will begin to know Jesus—truly—
in a profound and practical way.
That knowledge becomes love,
and that love guides us to live as he did,
to be as he was in everything.

Living by God's Grace

Study and know the life of Jesus.

Acknowledging God's Gifts

May this night's rest
clear my mind and heart
of whatever clutter
limits my ability
to examine the life of Jesus
as the model for my own.
Thank you, God,
for the great gift of my faith.
Thank you for the moments in this day
that challenged me to be faithful.
Make up, through your grace,
for those times I failed.
For tomorrow,
let me meet the challenges again.
Support me by the grace of your presence.
I will continue my work
of knowing, loving, and imitating Jesus.
I want to live and love as did Jesus.
For this day, thank you.
Bless this night.
May tomorrow be a fresh beginning.

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