

DAILY MEDITATIONS WITH SAINT AUGUSTINE

MINUTE MEDITATIONS FOR EVERY DAY
TAKEN FROM THE WRITINGS
OF SAINT AUGUSTINE

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Illustrated



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JANUARY 17

If You Walk along the Humble Christ, You Will Arrive at the Exalted Christ



CHRIST “the way” is the humble Christ; Christ “the truth and life” is Christ the exalted and God. If you walk along the humble Christ, you will arrive at the exalted Christ; if, in your sickly health and debility, you do not spurn the humble One, you will abide in perfect health and strength with the exalted One.

What else, after all, was the reason for Christ’s humility but your debility? Because you were not able to go to Him, He came to you. He came, teaching humility. —*Sermon 142, 2*

PRAYER. O Lord our God, grant us to trust in Your overshadowing wings; protect us beneath them and bear us up. —*Confessions IV, 16, 31*

JANUARY 18

The God I Worship



LOOK at Paul, not comprehending and yet seeking, following on behind, panting, sighing, longing; look at him, see what he’s pointing at his God, what he’s stretching out, whether it’s a finger or his spirit.

I follow on, he says, I keep on walking, he says, I’m on the way. Follow on yourself, if you can. Let us come to our final home together where you won’t seek answers from me, nor I from you. —*Sermon 261, 3*

PRAYER. Let us turn back to You at last, Lord, that we be not overturned. —*Confessions IV, 16, 31*

FEBRUARY 10

Christ the Conqueror



AFTER the devil had completed every temptation, he departed from Him until the time. He departed from Him in the form, that is, of the “insidious serpent”; he is going to come in the form of the “roaring lion.” But the One Who will trample on the lion and the dragon will conquer him. He will return; he will enter into Judas, will make him betray his Master; he will bring along the people, and he will cry out with the tongues of all of them, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!”

That Christ was the conqueror there, why should we be surprised? He was almighty God.

—*Sermon 284, 5*

PRAYER. When I seek You, my God, what I am seeking is a life of happiness.

—*Confessions X, 20, 29*

FEBRUARY 11

Friends Should Be Freely Loved



FRIENDS are to be loved freely, for their own sake, not for the sake of something else. If the rule of friendship urges you to love others freely, for their own sakes, how much more freely is God to be loved Who bids you love them! There can be nothing more delightful than God.

—*Sermon 385, 4*

PRAYER. Blessed is the one who loves You, Lord, and loves his friend in You.

—*Confessions IV, 9, 14*

JULY 21

The Property Which Is Peace Grows Bigger



LOVE peace, have peace, be in possession of peace, and take to yourself as many others as you can to be in possession of peace with you.

The more people it is possessed by the more extensive it will be. An earthly house hasn't got room for many; the property which is peace grows even bigger the more inhabitants it has.

—*Sermon 357, 1*

PRAYER. You touched me, and I burned for Your peace.

—*Confessions X, 27, 38*

JULY 22

The Real Thing



BEFORE the real thing comes to us, before we come to the real thing, let us take delight in the Lord. It's no trifling delight that is to be had in hope of the real thing that is coming later. Even in these temporal things, in the delights of the world, not the Lord, many people love all sorts of things and haven't yet got the things they love.

So now love in hope. That's why the psalmist says, "The just man takes delight in the Lord." And straightaway, because he does not yet see Him, he adds, "and will hope in Him."

—*Sermon 21, 1*

PRAYER. We love You, Lord, in hope.

—*Sermon 21, 1*

AUGUST 8

Christ Is Your Mountain of Refuge



APPROACH the mountain, climb up the mountain, and you that climb it, don't go down it. There you will be safe, there you will be protected.

Christ is your mountain of refuge. And where is Christ? At the right hand of the Father, since He has ascended into heaven. —*Sermon 62A, 3*

PRAYER. Because our souls were deeply disquieted within us we remembered You, O Lord, from our muddy Jordan; we called You to mind in that mountain which, although lofty as Yourself, was brought low for us. Disgusted with our darkness, we were converted to You. —*Confessions XIII, 12, 13*

AUGUST 9

We Trust Him Who Is Our End



CHRIST came down here as our fellow citizen, and said, "What are you doing here, citizens of Jerusalem? The image and likeness of God was only created in Jerusalem. God's statutes are not set up in this life. To work, in order to return.

"You ask 'How are we to return?' Here you are, I lay Myself under your feet, I become a Road for you, I will be the End for you. Imitate Me." —*Sermon 16A, 9*

PRAYER. Make known to me, Lord, my end. I trust You Who are my End. —*Sermon 16A, 9*