


ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION

CLOSE TO JESUS

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Introduction

Friendships are golden. Never was there truer friend than Jesus. Twice in the gospel that bears his name John the divine is said to have leaned on the bosom of Christ. Nobody better to speak of intimacy with Jesus and being as the Scots would say “far ben” with God.

*Near so very near to God
Nearer one could not be
But all who put their trust in Christ
Are just as near as He*

John has a word for the “bosom relationship” –in the Master’s language it was **ܕܢܐ** in ours it is **LAOTH** meaning “companion” or “close”. There are enough stories to run for 50 days. This Albion Album sets them out as excerpts to help more disciples “break the alabaster flask” and pour out the spikenard you have reserved for our precious Lord.

Jesus has died, Jesus has risen, Jesus is coming again and nothing is surer than our meeting with Him. What advice could be wiser than that of “camel-knees” –that indefatigable praying man of the early church who said “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you”.

Read the lines from John and think about the comment and how in your life today in a little talk with Jesus you can take time to develop a better friendship with our “forever friend”.

*There is a place of quiet rest near to the heart of God
A place where fears do not molest near to the heart of God
O Saviour Dear Saviour keep me near to the heart of God*

Jesus said “Come unto me all you who labour and bear burdens and I will refresh you” (Matt.11.28 Aramaic Peshitta- “*simply scripture*”)

*I am waiting for the dawning of that bright and blessed day
When the darksome night of sorrows has vanished quite away...
I can almost hear His footfall on the threshold of the door
And my heart, my heart is longing to be with Him evermore.*

Whilst we watch for that golden daybreak we can deepen our love & improve our serve one day at a time. When we call Him Saviour we call Him by His name-He termed himself “Life-giver” and disciples called Him Lord [Mar-ya(h)]

“One flight up” from “Nearer God in a garden”-*Bob Coffey*

A Vide-Mecum for Companions

In the wilderness walk toward the City of God.

1. **John 1.19-34(19)** Before any record of those who came near to Jesus leading Jews came to John the Baptist. People still listen to “heralds” before they find the Lord. In John 1.19 they sent priests and Levites (probably along the Jericho Road) to Bethany to get close to John-under his skin-right to his heart. Are you Messiah? Are you Elijah? Are you the mysterious prophet? John’s quote from Isaiah “I am the wilderness voice” did not deter or satisfy. Why baptize? John answered “There is one who has arrived among you[*of whom you have no personal knowledge*] in the city whose sandal straps I am unworthy to loose”! *Thought-John Knew the king-King of my life I crown thee now-Jesus is a friend of mine!*
2. **John 1.29-34(29)** Next day Jesus arrived with John and Jesus called him **ܐܡܪܐ** AMARA “The lamb”. Incidentally “The Aramaic term **ܐܡܪܐ** means “TheWord” and as you can see there is only one terminal letter of distinction which can be dropped. John rehearsed his reference to Jesus who “was before him”. John did not know Jesus “pre-existence” nor was he very conversant with his cousin for he was wilderness (if not Qumran) based from youth. As the last prophet he had special revelation that God’s “Son” would be marked by the dove-like descent of the Holy Spirit. The Aramaic for “Son” is **ܒܪܗ** BARAH which unlike BEN “descendent” means “companion”. *Thought-Jesus God’s intimate is yours too!*
3. **John 1.39-40(39)** On another day (you quickly drop to it that John’s account is like a diary. He uses the “participle” **ܕܝܢ** DIN over 200 times to highlight a time or event. Here John and Andrew leave John and follow Jesus and check in where the Lord was staying at 4pm staying “that day” i.e. till 6pm. *Thought-What a change an hour or two with Jesus-in word or prayer- will make!*
4. **John 1 40-42(42)** Andrew brought his brother Shimeon(Peter) intimate to Jesus. Jesus “looked at him with delight consideration and expectation” **ܐܘܪܝܢܐ** and said ‘Simeon son & companion of Jonah you shall be called Cepha’-*a stone. Thought-You can’t take your home or bank balance to heaven but you can set a friend on course!*

5. **John 1 43-51(47)** Jesus saw Nathaniel when he came close and said “Behold a real son of Israel...to whom there is no deceit or treachery”. The Lord first saw him ‘reading’ under his fig tree probably from Psalm 2.6-7 which Nathaniel quoted when the Lord reminded him of the occasion saying “You are the Son of God”. The Lord promised him he would see this glorious king one future day. *Thought –you will see the King in His Beauty Isa 33. 17*
6. **John 3.1 -16(2)** This (leader) came intimately to Jesus and said “We know you are a God-commissioned teacher with such signs as these”. Jesus said “The Spirit carries or **captures** **سحب**-you hear His voice-YOU do not know exactly where He comes in and exactly where He leaves”. *Thought –Gone with The wind-born from above*
7. **John 3 18-21(21)** The man of reality and truth **شريعة** SHARIRA comes to the light that it may be understood his service is God enabled. *Thought- Nearness to Christ is the universal test*
8. **John 3 22-22-27(26)** The Lord was “coming and going” busy as a merchant trader as disciples were taught and baptized. John’s disciples inform him that now **multitudes** **كثيرة** of people are getting to be intimate with Him(Jesus). *Thought-a man’s life-work and its setting and extension is in God’s gift.*
9. **John 3.29-36(29)** John was never so full of joy as when he watched Jesus with the crowds and listened to Him. He thoroughly understood our Lord to be “Son & companion of God the Father” and “Bridegroom of His people”-God loves the Son **احب** and gives everything into His hands **احسن** *Thought-He’s got the whole world in His hands-He’s got you and me brother(sister) in His hands-He’s got the little tiny baby in His hands!*
10. **John 4 5-29(17)** She(the Samaritan woman) said ‘I have no intimacy with a husband’. Jesus said you have put it beautifully ‘I have no intimate husband’. Her deepest thirst and greatest need was for life in

Jesus and His forgiveness. *Thought-why leave that waterpot? He met her need-she did kindly -and she would be back!*

*I came to Jesus and I drank of that life-giving stream
My thirst was quenched, my soul restored, and now I live for Him.*

*I came to Jesus and I found in Him my star my sun
And in that Light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done*

11. **John 4 28-38(30)** And the men of the city made a sortie and came close **to him** while the disciples focused on the eating sideline. Jesus food was “Doing & completing the will of God” for the harvest for eternal life. The big purpose of the Sychar visit was reach-out –and by example to bring the disciples to talk to and reach Samaritans. Jesus demonstrated the worth of testimony.
Thought-Look on the fields-the harvestis coming.
12. **John 4(40)** And those “sidelined” Samaritan men with their distinctive dress and direct approach had a plan-they requested Jesus to stay locally. Notice their offer did not exclude the disciples and their hospitality took care of eats. They were so open! *Thought-people need the Lord-let's not get in the way.*
13. **John4 41-45(41)** And they **were intimate** with Jesus for two days. John reports the Samaritans got it. They believed Jesus’ word; they received Him as Messiah; they realized He was in His words “Life-Giver of **the world**”. John reports Jesus as saying He had not such acceptance at home. *Thought-Whosoever will may come!*
14. **John4.46-54(47)** A royal servant heard by the grapevine that Jesus had come from Judea to Cana in Galilee and left his hostel in Capernaum to seek healing for his son. It was one o'clock when he had the **close encounter** **אחא** LOTHA with Jesus. He urged Jesus to rush to Capernaum. Jesus asked him to go home saying “The child lives”. Servants met him on the homeward way and confirmed the boy recovered at 1pm. This royal courtier’s house became one of the earliest Christian homes! *Thought-the second Cana based miracle was a Christian home!*

15. **John 5.1-9(7)** The Jerusalem spa for the chronically ill had five colonnades. Jesus made a visit. He selected a patient with a condition for 38 years. The man believed a story that an angel healed the first to drop in the pool on his annual visit. Jesus asked if the fellow wanted healing for such remedies are often bogus. His plea was “I have no **near kinsman**” Jesus said “Your mat on your shoulder and go home” This was a “son of the hour” **אֱלֹהִים** instant healing. *Thought- Had he only an angel? Beware myths*
16. **John 5.17-47 (40)** Jesus arraigns those of Judea for accepting John (a flaming light)and Moses(a lawgiver) but rejecting the Father & the Son who have greater glory and share “power to raise the dead” (21) **אֱלֹהִים** and “ultimate fundamental existence & lifegiving”(26) **אֱלֹהִים** but Jews of the day **refused intimacy** leading to eternal life(40) *Thought-Let me not to another fountain fly*
17. **John 6 1-16(5)** Jesus mountain view of 5000men and families trudging uphill **to be close** prompted the compassionate question for Philip-“Where will we find bread? Five loaves & two fish seemed pitiful but with the Lord’s blessing it fed them all with 12 fish baskets full uneaten. *Thought- Bread of heaven feed me till I want no more!*
18. **John 6.17-18(17)** The storm began and the sea roared whilst the disciples toiled. Jesus had not come **near them**. They felt forsaken. It grew dark-would they see those loved ones at Capernaum ever again? *Thought-Its always darkest before the dawn*
19. **John6 19-20(19)** Half way home on the sullen 6 mile wide sea they spot Jesus walking on the water as day fades away. Many a sailor in a sinking ship has feared such signal of death. Jesus said “I,I” **אֱלֹהִים** “Do not fear” *Thought- “He rolled back the water of the mighty Red Sea-just listen while I tell you what He means to me!*
He is my everything He is my all
He is my everything both great and small
He gave His life for me made everything new
He is my everything now how about you?

20. **John 6 21 -29(21)** They wanted to get Jesus into the boat-but **ⲁⲗⲁⲥ** “in a moment” the ship **touched land**. How did the other half of the lake travel evaporate? *Thought - Time is in His hand*
21. **John 6 30 -35 (35)** “I,I”(meaning I am[God]) “who comes *to me* will not hunger or thirst for eternity”. The Aramaic reiterates that God is “Living” and without comparison so “I am what I am” for ever. The attraction of Jesus is that “Eternal Life”is a gift. The condition is faith(29)based on love. No type of service earns or warrants intimacy
Thought - “Lobest thou me?”
22. **John 6 36 -7(37a)** “Everyone whom the Father gives me **will come to me!**”*John B Tether was a Hull fishing merchant who signed every cheque “John 6.37 Tether”*. Like him if you have come to be a “close companion” of Christ this is your verse. If not make haste to offer your life a living sacrifice and discard your sin and trust Christ’s death alone for your redemption. *Thought - “His forever only His”*
Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee
Take my moments and my days –let them flow in ceaseless praise
Take my love, my Lord I pour at Thy feet its treasure store
Take myself and I will be ever only all for thee
23. **John 6 37 -40(37)** “And whoever will come to me I shall not cast out” **ⲁⲗⲁ** You have the word of Jesus He will not desert you. He will not say you cannot enlist.He will not divorce you. He will not pass you by. Twice Jesus says –“No destruction-but Life and resurrection*Thought - Remember Jericho-Zacchaeus & Bartimaeus Oh and the thief on the cross!*
24. **John 6 40 -44(44)** No one can come into this intimate union which links Father and Son and Christian as “one” unless the Father draw him. What is that? 1.Each man is in a miry pit 2 Each is as an unbroken ox 3. Each is a bound slave of sin 4. Each is in a dark curtained room. The good news is that Jesus said “I if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me!”(John12.32) Where is the magnet? Answer –The cross. If you accept He who was delivered for your transgressions you shall live. If you reject you shall not see life.

Thought-the cross is unavoidable but there is life for a look of faith at the crucified one-life at this moment for you!

25. **John 6 45-51(45)** The ancient prophets said all Israel would learn from the Father whose lessons were rolled out to Israel and in providence. Since the coming of the Son all the world can learn from Jesus who was God manifest in flesh giving His body to death on the cross on behalf of sinful man. *Thought- It was once a Passover lamb for a nation now it is The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*
26. **John 6 52-63(53)** Digesting the body of Christ broken and imbibing the blood of Christ shed is a spiritual act based on a once for all sacrifice for sins on Calvary. Jesus said “The Spirit is the life-giver-the body does not benefit-the words I speak are Spirit and Life”. Plainly the sacrifice complete Jesus rose and ascended. The Holy Spirit enables us to benefit from His atoning death. The Jews & disciples argued so about dining with intimacy in the presence of the living Christ that he referred them rather to His words and promise and to the Holy Spirit. *Thought-Luther said “It is as if Christ was slain but yesterday”*
27. **John 6.65-71(68)** The Father-Son truth was too much and the idea of benefitting from the death of Christ as from Passover –save the Lamb would be once slain-was the last straw. Jesus said to the twelve. “Do you desire to leave?” Peter said “The words of eternal life belong to you-for whom shall we go leave? *Thought-Neither is there salvation in any other Acts 4.12*
- I am the way the truth and the Life that’s what Jesus said
Without the way there is no going,
Without the truth there is no knowing
Without the Life there is no growing
I am the way the truth and the life that’s what Jesus said.*
28. **John 7 15-31(29)** Again in Jerusalem Jesus was at the eye of stormy debates. How can he know all this? He has a demon! Sabbath rules gone for a burton! What do the leaders say-have they acquiesced?

Jesus simple reply was “I,I”[the Aramaic emphatic of existential being-the “I am”] know the reality-who sent me and that **I am intimate** with Him. *Thought-Who is He in yonder stall? Who is He that stands and weeps? Who is He in Calvary’s throes? Who is He that from the grave comes to heal and help and save? Who is He that on yon throne rules the world of light alone? Tis the Lord O wondrous story-crown Him crown Him Lord of all.*

29. **John 7 32-36(33)** Jesus said “I am with you “fleeting time”. They presumed He might go to Greece but to His destination only the sanctified could fly! Our Lord whose whole ethos was eternity surveyed His three years and a bit and pronounced “tempus fugit”-the time will fly. Then I go away to **the intimacy** of the Father. *Thought-How thrilling to know Grace! How extraordinarily breathtaking to reach Glory!*
30. **John 7 37-45(37)** On the Great day –the eighth-the Jews left their tabernacles and processed after the priests with water in a golden vessel from Siloam to be poured on the alter and thereafter wine. It was an annual reminder of leaving the wilderness to new life with rain for the crops in Canaan land and wine from the vines. Jesus quoted Isaiah 55 and pronounced that at the coming Pentecost New Life from the wilderness of sin and an even greater refreshing would come. *Thought-Our great Highpriest poured out His blood from the golden bowl of His broken heart and in love He sent a mighty outpouring that birthed the Church.*
31. **John 7 44-52(50)** Priests and Pharisees combine in directing their guard to apprehend Jesus. They demurred because “Never **אדם** man spoke like this **mighty man**” **אדם** GEBORAH “Never” is a mathematical expression meaning from the first point of creation till this point in time. Nicodemus who listened into the night in intimacy to Jesus’ mighty words alike defended the Christ-“Does our Law condemn before hearing words and actions” *Thought- Jesus spoke “Words of Life”-He talked Eternity to the heart. He breathed the Spirit into the Soul.*

32. **John 9 29-39(38)** After his “eye-opening” experience the former blind man engaged the Jewish theological establishment and worsted them. Since creation no blind man could believe sight restoration possible much less see “break of day” with such clarity and joy. He was excommunicated. Jesus found him and He confessed Jesus as “Son and associate of the Father” **ܐܒܝ** BARAH and worshipped the Lord. The Pharisees responded to Jesus word “I have come for world judgment that the blind may see and those who see may be (as owls) blind in the light. *Thought- the blind is not an intimate of sin whereas the sin of the wise stands out a mile –Jesus(v.41)*
33. **John 11 1-11(3)** Lazarus’ two sisters sent **an intimate message** to Jesus “Behold, he whom you love is sick” Jesus said “This sickness did not belong to death but on behalf of **ܐܠܗܐ** HALAPH the glory of God that the “Son and associate” of God may be glorified. John adds “**BUT JESUS WAS CONTINUALLY COMMITTED IN LOVE(Aramaic participle) TO MARTHA MARY AND LAZARUS**”. *Thought- The greatest of these is love personified in Jesus*
34. **John 11 6-15** Jesus said(to the disciples) I am glad I was not there on your account but that you will go there **united with me** that you might believe. The Lord was “glad” as with a resurrection “greeting” that the twelve who were to face his death within days would gain a level of understanding of Christ’s power over death that even the raising of the Rabbi’s child and the Widow’s son could not afford. Lazarus was buried. His spirit(which Jews believed resided 3 days) was gone. *Thought-Either way Lazarus had joy-at Simon’s house or had it been heaven like the dying thief he would have been in Paradise. Note Thomas dug in his heels!*
35. **John 11 18-19(19)** Many Jews were **coming to companion** Martha and Mary to comfort their hearts on account of their brother. Notice there were no musicians. Little teardrop bottles were everywhere. The tenants of Lazarus’ Jerusalem houses were doubtless deeply moved. He was a great man in Jerusalem as the scripture and tradition show.

Thought-the ministry of presence and the milk of human kindness is not unnoticed by the Spirit of God.

36. **John 11 20-54(29)** Jesus hadn't gone a step further. Mary "was coming" like a fast moving chariot wheel **אָפּ** to the Lord-she fell at His feet. She was breathless and very broken "**Oh that here-You would have been here-my brother-You were-My Lord-have not died!**" She was so sad-but love for Jesus held undiminished. Our Lord was mightily moved in His spirit(much as Samson) and greatly moved or impelled (by love) in His soul. John says "The tears of Jesus- Woe- they were coming". Such sharing was never seen in Israel I would wager. Genuine love-deep sorrow. A community-a family-a God sent lifegiver moved beyond words and the shattered dream home embalmed in that "If only". *Thought- Jesus lifted his eyes "O that they might believe" Lazarus come outdoors"***L'AZAR THA LABAR**
37. **John 13 1-3(3)** Satan was cast into prison in the heart of Judas son of Simon (surnamed) *the blocked path or bolted door* **סַרְיֹוֹתָא** SCARIOTHA so he would finish (what he planned) or hand Him over. God had *put everything in the Lord's hands* and he knew He would go away to the **intimate fellowship** of God. *Thought-Keep thine heart well for out of it are the issues of life.*
38. **John 13 4 -19(6)** When Jesus **came intimately** to Simon he said "You are washing my feet for me?" Jesus replied "You will understand later!" Simon said "Not for eternity will you wash my feet!" Jesus said "If not you have no allotted portion with me!" Simon stirred "Not my feet only-my hands and my head". *Thought- Peter wanted where he went what he did and what he thought to be in God's will*
39. **John 13 20-30(23)** The beloved disciple and author of the annals of intimate moments records his privilege to lean on the Lord's bosom or lap **אָפּ** at supper. Simon's motion to John about the betrayer meant John "fell on" the breast or chest **אָפּ** of the Lord. Jesus said

“It’s he to whom I give the bread I dip in the bitter herbs.” *Thought-Satan came in offering a higher price* **III**

*Lord You are more precious than silver
Lord You are more costly than gold
Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire compares with You.*

40. **John 14 1-10(3)** And if I go away I am getting a **special place** **ጸሐፊ** prepared for you(Like Joseph’s Goshen) and I am coming again bringing you to join me in **close companionship** that precisely where I live you will be also. *Thought- Present with the Lord which is very far better*

*There’s a land that is fairer than day
And by faith we can see it afar
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.
In the sweet by-an-by we shall meet on that beautiful shore!
In the sweet by and by we shall meet on that beautiful shore!*

41. **John 14 11-16(12)** “Whoever believes in me the works I have done he also shall do and those over and above or remaining or exceeding **ፋል** (literally “interest on the capitol” Christ left)he shall do because **I go intimate** with my Father.” Because of the ascension the sceptre of prayer is held out for us to forward those works and the growing glory of the Father in the Son. *Thought-I cannot tell how He will win the nations; how He will claim His earthly heritage -but this I know all flesh shall see His glory -but this I know the skies will thrill with rapture and earth to heaven and heaven to earth will answer -at last the Saviour Saviour of the world is King.*

42. **John 14(17)** The Spirit of Truth and Reality that the world is not able to accept, meet, or agree with because it has not seen or had personal awareness of Him but you know Him because **He is intimate** with you and lives as a family member with you and He is among you. Wesley spoke of “the inner witness” which twins with the occasion on which Jesus “breathed upon His disciples saying “Receive the

Holy Spirit”(John20.22) *Thought –O Spirit of faith and love purify each waiting heart-baptise us with power today.*

43. **John 14 (18)** I will not leave you bereaved (Fatherless) for I shall come to you in a little while *Thought-The Emmaus Road shows how fraught we are even when the Lord is on schedule.*
44. **John 14 24-30(28)** There is double intimacy in this verse. Jesus says “You have heard I am going away and going to be near to you(or) **coming to you**” If you had tender hearts for me **ܠܪܗܡ** RAHAM you would have rejoiced that I am **going to be close to** my Father for my Father is Greater than me. The word RAB **ܠܪܗܡ** in Aramaic is used of the manager of a household and the leader of an army. *Thought –The commitment of Jesus in the flesh was intense. We give scant thought to the previously unheard of pressure and demand on the Saviour. What Jesus begun the Father Son and Holy Spirit continue with angelic ministry.*
45. **John 16 13-25(17)** The “*little while*” becomes a live issue. The disciples talked “one to one” to solve the riddle. They figured the solution housed around **joining** the Father. How well the Saviour understands our concern about “the timing” of His ways in our lives. He asked point blank “Are you querying my “little while” and “little while”? He answered “The world will rejoice-you will mourn but your sorrow will become joy!” Jesus pointed to a day when disciples would not ask Him direct but ask the Father through His name. *Thought-the birthpangs and delivery refer to the cross and resurrection –and the end of the church period and the rapture.*
*Christ is coming let creation from her groans and travails cease
Let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase.*
46. **John 16 26-7(26)** In that day you will pray in my name and I do not affirm that I will make request from the Father for you for the Father has a tender heart for you because you have a tender heart for me and you believed I left that **filial union** (for you). *Thought-Even when the church has come of age in the 21st C to believe Jesus left heaven for us thrills the Father.*

47. **John 16 28-33(28)** I have proceeded from **intimate fellowship** with the Father and come into the world and again I let the world remain SHABAQ (not forsake it) and I am going away **to intimacy** with the Father. *Thought- There is decisive allowance for human government but promise of peace for Christians in a world of suffering and the exhortation “Take heart for I have overcome the world!”*
48. **John 17.1-5(5)** The sequel to the Victory proclamation is a most extraordinary prayer. Jesus had worldwide authority and would yield His atoning life blood **אֵלֶּיךָ** NATHAL (v.2) to disciples the Father gave. Eternal life consists of personal experience of God as the reality and the truth **אֵלֶּיךָ** SHARIRA and knowing Jesus as the “Life Giver”. Jesus consciously completed the work of service and was anticipating with relishing renewed **intimacy in** the glory-that very **intimacy enjoyed before** the world began. *Thought-Jesus condescension cost Him –to live in a world sold under sin and death.*
*Down from His glory Ever living story my God and Saviour came
 And Jesus was His name
 Born in a manger to His own a stranger; A man of sorrow tears and agony
 O how I love Him how I adore Him; My breath and sunshine, my all in all
 The Great Creator became my Saviour; And all God’s fullness dwelleth in Him.*
49. **John 17 6-7(7)** Jesus made known the “name” and the “word” of the Father to the precious children of men the Father gave Him. The word of God is their covenant-the New Covenant. We need to understand with what preciousness the Saviour regarded each disciple. *Thought- you have intrinsic value to Jesus*
50. **John 17 8-10(8)** The words the Father gave the Son He in turn gave the disciples and they “really know” says our Lord that I left heaven as a “commissioned soldier” and “the flower of glory” and “vacated a seat” in heaven. *Thought-This matter of “proceeding” as a soldier commissioned to warring a good warfare unto victory deeply moved our Lord. To survey the 18 intimations of “world-weariness” of the Son of Man and the 7 intimations of Jesus anticipation of “joining the Father” is to better understand the implications of “incarnation”*

51. John 17 11-26(11) Our Lord had been so conscious of the hardness, adulterous heart, deceits and Satanic schemes of this world that whilst He anticipated with delight joining the Father He pleaded once and again for those His dearest disciples. His wish was that they would be “one” in the exact daily walk with the Father in this wilderness.

Thought- Pater Noster –Oh Father!

This world is not my home I'm just a passing through

My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue

The angels beckon me from heaven's open door

And I can't feel at home in this world any more

52. John 19 18-25(25) “And there were **standing intimately near** to cross of Jesus His mother and the sister of his mother(John’s mother) and Mary Clope(Jesus’ aunt) and Miriam Magdalene.” The tenderest touches of this gospel narrative from Chapter 14 onwards bring us to the edge of this world of sorrows –this vale of tears- and to the “Greathearts” that indwell earth’s humble spiritual nobility. *Thought- v.34 “A sword shall pierce your heart also” Simeon*

53. John 19 26-31(27) “Behold your mother” John’s mother stood there too- but Jesus had looked with the keenest eye through tears and a breaking heart to preface this “word doublet” with another “Behold your son”. Jesus was aware of the most poignant moment in both lives and the huge distress-a heavy weight of history clung on these four words. *Thought-here are women at “the tree of life”*

54. John 19 32-37(33) The soldiers were briefly preoccupied first with time-wasting games then with their ownership of the spoil and then in gaining Pilate’s permission to cut short their vigil and incidentally end the groans by breaking the legs of the victims. Being without Aramaic the words from the cross bemused them but they came near and unwittingly fulfilled prophecy and saw the “blood and serum” that told of Jesus broken heart and one said “This man was the Son of God”. The story of *The Robe* by Lloyd Douglas dramatizes how from these Latins at least one came to faith. *Thought –Never man spoke as this man-nor more valiantly suffered.*

Dear dying Lamb Thy precious blood shall never lose its power

Till all the ransomed Church of God be saved to sin no more.

55. **John 19.38-42(39)** John brings **intimates** and bravehearts who loved much into his closing chapters alongside his own compassionate soul-each earned their place. There is Mary, Magdalene, Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, Thomas and Cephas. Why Thomas? If Thomas witness dying under the Indian midday heat bound till he could not breathe sewn up in an animal skin and taking the gospel to the sunrise is not reason why the aging John should include him what is? Nicodemus was a silent but committed witness for 3 years and now the power of the love of Jesus caused this sanhedrinist to spend hugely on the aromatic aloe. *Thought- Nikodim Ben Gurion for that was his name was doubtless a distant relative of the first premier of Israel. From this fold came righteous and courageous leadership.*
56. **John 20 1-17(17)** Mary stood at the tomb-she waited after Peter & John left. Jesus stood by her and spoke gently “Woman why are you weeping; who are you seeking?” A *helpful gardener* she surmised. Jesus said “Miriam”. She replied “Rabuli”(My beloved teacher) She over and over came near to Him.[Ethtaphel tense of the verb “to cause to come near” meaning “annoyingly”] He said “Do not fight to be near-for I have not yet ascended **to join** my Father-i.e. *I am not going away yet* but go to my brothers and say ‘I ascend **to join** my Father and yours , my God and yours!’” She then went and brought the good news. Later that day Jesus came in when the doors were shut and showed the brothers His hands and side. He commissioned them and breathed on them bringing the “inner witness” alongside the physical demonstration. *Thought- Though we regarded Christ from a worldly point of view we do so no longer. 2Corinthians 5.16*
*When my life’s work is ended and I cross the swelling tide,
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see; I shall know my redeemer when I
reach the other side, And His smile will be the first to welcome me.
I shall know Him I shall know Him when redeemed by His side I shall stand
I shall know Him I shall know Him by the print of the nails in His hand(s)*
57. **John21. 3-19(7)** Peter back in Galilee awaiting the appointment on the mountain said “I’m going fishing”. The episode ended with Jesus cooking breakfast on the shore and a haul of fishes to evaporate the

disappointment of the night of the empty net. John's keen sight discerned Jesus at dusk and Peter leapt into the water and swam a few hundred yards just **to be near** Jesus whom he had so unpardonably denied. You can almost hear Peter "Lord. I'm so sorry-Oh I'm so sorry-I am a sinful man" That's one scenario. Anyway when the boat came in Jesus said "Bring from the fish you've caught just now" Peter again leapt into action. He counted out 153-incidentally the count of nations on earth at that time. All these the gospel has since reached.
Thought- Impetuous to the last Peter-bless Him-was ever ready to humble himself. I like the Big Fisherman-I think John did too.

*There was a time on Earth when in the books of Heaven
That an Old Account was standin' for sins yet unforgiven
My name was at the top there was many things below
But I went unto the keeper and I settled it long ago
Long ago,yes long ago I said the Old Account was settled long ago
And my record's clear today 'cause he washed my sins away
And the Old Account was settled long ago -Johnny Cash*

Postscript

The story of Peter finishes with a triple "Shimeon Bar Jonah do you love me with a tender heart" רַחֵם RAHAM.

*Love in that story so tender- clearer than ever I see;
Stay, let me weep while you whisper
"Love paid the ransom for thee!" (Fanny Crosby).*

Bob Coffey L'shuvkha Marya
To the glory of the Lord
Aramaic Bible Companion

YOUR FOREVER FRIEND

JESUS

ܕܡܫܝܚܐ ܕܥܝܣܝܘܬܐ ܕܥܝܣܝܘܬܐ ܕܥܝܣܝܘܬܐ ܕܥܝܣܝܘܬܐ

When

You believe that Jesus is the Son of God

John 20.31

A vide mecum of Fifty days with Jesus

Suddenly I'm bright and breezy,
Because of all the beautiful and new
Things I'm learning about you
Day by day.

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