

3/ The Kiss: Symbol of Peace & Friendship

B. Peace from Friendship w/ Lord

Ch. 2, 16-18

Meditations on the Song of Songs
by Teresa of Avila

Treats of **Nine kinds of false peace** presented to the soul by the world, the flesh, and the devil. Explains the holiness of the religious state. This holiness leads to the true peace desired by the bride in the Song of Songs.

16. Since the bride indicates the **peace** she is seeking by saying, *Let Him kiss me with the kiss of His mouth*, we have a sign that the Lord has **other ways** of bestowing **peace** and showing **friendship**.

I will explain some of these to you so you can see that this is a **lofty petition** and that there is a **difference** between these **two types of peace**.

The bride could have said, *let Him kiss me ...* Why does she specify *with the kiss of His mouth?* ... I don't know the exact reason ... what is important is that we benefit from the thoughts.

In many ways our King offers souls peace and friendship, as we see both in and out of prayer; but our friendship with His Majesty is only skin-deep.

You will observe, however, daughters, the **degree of love** you have reached in that you will be able to **ask** for that which the bride does, **if** the Lord brings you to Himself.

If He doesn't, do not become discouraged. Whatever the **friendship** you have with God you will be very **rich** if there is **no fault** on your part; but we should be **grieved** to not

have reached this **excellent friendship** and to be happy with **little**.

17. Why, O Lord, do we not remember that the **reward** is great and everlasting? We forget that once such **close friendship** reached here below, the Lord gives us the **reward**; yet many remain at the foot of the mount who could ascend to the top!

Always have **courageous thoughts** and then the Lord will give you grace for **courageous deeds**. Believe that these **brave thoughts** are important.

Some have attained **friendship** with the Lord because they have **confessed** their sins well and **repented** of them. Two days later they return to them; this is not the friendship the Lord is asking for. Strive, daughters, not to go to the confessor each time **confessing the same fault**.

18. We cannot live without faults, but there should be some **change** so they don't take **root** ... If we plant an herb or small tree and water it daily, it grows so strong that you need a shovel and a pickax to get it out by the roots. If we commit the same fault daily, however small ... it is like watering the plant.

In **prayer**, you must ask **help** from the Lord, for of ourselves, we can do little; rather, we **add faults** instead of taking them away. Consider the judgment at the hour of death, we shall see that this was **no small matter** especially for those the Judge took for His brides in this life. Amen