

Sitting by the Fire

Life can often be so cold that it makes you long to sit by a fire with someone. If people were logs, you would want to surround yourself with them to warm your body and soul. Yet you often feel that no one is here to warm you, so the cold even feels colder. The good news is that Jesus is better than anyone you can think of and He can warm your soul, your body, your emotions, or anything else. When people aren't there, He is!

Remember how the disciples were out fishing all night and caught no fish? No doubt they were tired of being wet and cold from being in the elements of the water all night. They were certainly tired of not catching something that would feed them and their families. As day broke, they turned towards the shore thinking, "Let's just forget it and go home!" and then they saw Jesus standing by the fire with fish already cooked. That fire looked so inviting! Then Jesus yelled out to them, "Have you caught any fish?" and they replied, "No!" Jesus said, "Then cast your nets on the other side." They cast their nets and caught 153 fish. Jesus said, "Bring more fish and we'll eat breakfast." The disciples came to land and sat beside a warm fire talking with Jesus.

My friend, I realize that you have longed to literally sit with Jesus by the fire. And although you already know that Jesus is here with you right now, that deep longing to be warmed is still in your soul. When I feel this, I do several things:

- ✚ First, I find examples in the Bible of those who needed a special touch from the LORD, and I note how they cried out and Jesus came for them. Stories such as David who was alone in the wilderness but found comfort and warmth by knowing he was a sheep and God would take care of him, that comforted me. The stories of Esther, Jacob, Joseph, and many others, also remind me that God won't leave me out in the cold.
- ✚ Second thing I do is to look for those who also feel alone and cold so that I may be a log for them. Because when I warm their soul, mine gets warmed. And I'm glad that I can be the log to warm someone else.
- ✚ Third, I pray for God to send me someone that can warm me in my times of need. And sometimes I reach out to those who have previously warmed me because they had been there for me.

Jesus is indeed concerned that you are warmed in your time of need! He sits beside you and comforts you often, whether you feel it or not. Notice how people randomly call, text, or message to check on you—that's Jesus prompting them to warm you so you'll feel alive and loved. Notice how people invite you to an event when you had nowhere to go—that's Jesus warming you. Notice when people send a gift unexpectedly—that's also Jesus. Let these times sink deep into your soul that you do have logs that come to sit with you by the fire.

Dear Jesus,

Whatever losses they may have experienced that left them feeling cold, I pray that you will send them logs that will bring love and warmth into their souls. For sure, they are the sheep of your pasture. As David, they need your comfort. I know that you are the fire, and I believe that you will purposely and intentionally send them logs to keep their souls ablaze with hope, comfort, and cheer. May the eyes of their understanding be enlightened to how many times you send them a fire to sit beside.

Jesus, you will amazingly send them comfort in their pain, send them hope and love in their losses, and lift them up from a cold, dark surrounding with the light of your love. I pray that you send logs to surround them when needed, and that they feel you sitting by the fire with them! Yes, and amen!

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If one person falls, the other person can reach out to help. But those who are alone when they fall have no one to help them. If two people sleep together, they will be warm. But a person sleeping alone will not be warm. Ecclesiastes 4:10-11