

hostesses would still delight to honour their guests with the best of entertainment. Good cooking and dainty serving would still continue to be an appreciated art. But we should have a greater care to give *ourselves* in sympathetic and intelligent friendship to our guests. We should study to enter into their interests, to share their joys and sorrows, and to refresh them with a welcome into the banqueting-room of our affections.

But the application of the lesson here cannot be restricted to domestic hospitalities. It has to do with the whole matter of Christian service. The soul of the lesson is religious. You can scarcely get a better definition of the Christian religion than that of Friendship with Jesus Christ. And this friendship cannot flourish unto full fruition if denied the quiet hour of reflective and receptive sitting at His feet. That friendship cannot fully utter itself in anxious activities and manifold ministrations. It is too personal and spiritual a relation for that. It requires frequent seasons of deep and silent and calm communings. There must be moments of listening as well as days of serving. There must be times of gracious dew-fall or the flower of friendship will droop upon its stem. If the