

**Letter written by Andreas Karlstadt to Müntzer,
from Wittenberg,
21 December 1522 ¹**

To his dearest of brothers, Thomas Müntzer, servant of Christ.

Peace be with you from the father of our lord Jesus Christ. I am obliged to give you this greeting, when I see that you have fallen back on cursing which is not unlike the curses used by Jeremiah: I cannot approve of this, since in Jeremiah's case too there was a grain of wheat which had fallen upon the earth but was not yet dead. Just like him, you seem to feel something of the bitterness of the mustard, but as yet you do not feel that you have become - like it - the least of seeds. For if you really felt that you were the least of seeds, then you would pronounce yourself to be unworthy of the glory and the honour like that with which Christ was crowned by that woman ². But more of that another time. I was alerted by your letter to the stormy waters in which you are swimming. Believe me: the lord punishes his elect with judgement. But if it sometimes seems that you have been struck by a blow from the enemy, this also has come from that judgement, namely on account of sin. You know that it is not easy for us to conform to the will of God, since we are separated from it so frequently, and it is often conquered by our desires. We live our lives in the land of death, so that the justice of Christ cannot triumph within us until the life of the flesh is ended. But more of that another time. I was very pleased to hear that church ceremonies have fallen out of favour in Zwickau. But who would not be pleased when you show so much zeal in climbing into the abyss of the divine will, and when you incessantly strive to be reborn there, where you can live a life in God? But more of that another time. I congratulate you that you have applied to us alone for help. I ask that you come alone and ask for me at the house of a citizen named Simon Fleischer where I live, because I would like to talk to you in person. This is not because the idea of seeing you in person attracts me in any way, but because I will be able to carry out my duty, firstly to confer with you and then to help you in any way I can. Then I can say things which I do not think I commit to paper. I will take you to new lodgings which I have arranged for myself in the countryside. I think and I hope

¹ This letter was written in Latin - evidently in haste - in answer to a letter to Karlstadt from Müntzer, which has now been lost.

² Possibly a reference to Matthew 26,7.

that you will not regret taking the trouble to do this. It is not possible to reply to every point. God has mastery over my heart, and by experience I have learned his power and his firm hand. That is why I have spoken more about visions and dreams than any of the other professors here. I will speak more in your presence. Farewell in Jesus Christ and come as soon as you can [...] my [...] ³; behold he breathes upon my poor little heart.

Farewell.

Dated at Wittenberg, the Day of Thomas the Apostle, in the year 1522.

*(Translated by Andy Drummond,
March 2016)*

³ The paper of the original letter is torn here – some words are missing.