232 Middle (*Medium*)

Christ holds the middle.[[1]](#endnote-1) First, lying in the middle of domestic animals, Haba. 3[:2]: “In the midst of the” two animals you will be known. In which he teaches us to hold the middle way concerning prudence whose extremes are foolishness which is designated by the ass and sorrow which is noted by the good attack on the heart, 1 Pet. 2[:2]: “As newborn babes,” through innocent reasoning against foolishness, “desire the rational milk without guile.” Concerning this middle, it is said in Prov. 15[:31]: “The ear that hears the reproofs of life, shall abide in the midst of the wise.”

Second, [Luke 2:46]: “Sitting in the midst of the doctors, hearing them, and asking them questions,” in which he taught us to hold the middle about justice whose extremes are cruelty and remission. Wherefore also “A Samaritan … pouring in oil,” against cruelty, “and wine,” against remission, Luke [10:33-34]. Wherefore Prov. 8[:20]: “I walk in the way of justice, amid the paths of judgment. Note here about the horn that is harder than flesh but softer than bone.

Third, walking in the middle of the Jews, Luke 4[:30]: “But Jesus passing through the midst of them, went his way.” In which he teaches us to hold the middle concerning fortitude whose extremes are cowardice and rashness. However, Christ himself does not hold the precipice nor does he push on those without reason, Psal. [54:9]: “I waited for him that has saved me from pusillanimity of spirit.” Concerning this middle, Dan. 3[:50]: “And made the midst of the furnace like the blowing of a wind bringing dew.”

Fourth, hanging in the middle of the thieves, John 19[:18], in which he teaches us to hold the middle concerning temperance whose extremes were too much care which is designated by the thief on the left and too much softness which is designated by the thief on the right. It is noted in Eccli. 50[:6]: “As the morning star in the midst of a cloud.” The cloud because of its coldness and wetness signifies too much care.

¶ The star in truth in the middle denotes temperance.

Fifth, [Luke 24:36] “He stood in the midst of the disciples and said to them: Peace be to you.” In which he teaches us to hold the middle about our association whose extremes are uniqueness and tumult. So that man neither separates himself from a good society nor involves himself in turbulent worldliness, 3 Kings 3[:8]: “Your servant is in the midst of the people which you have chosen.”

1. Cf. Hugh Ripelin of Strasburg, *Compendium Theologicae Veritatis* 5.35 (8:189): 6. Christo assimilat, qui stetit in medio discipulorum, sedit in medio doctorum, suspensus est in medio latronum, locatus est in medio duorum animalium, visus est a Joanne in Apocalypsi in medio candelabrorum aureorum. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)