

SHOW ME YOUR GLORY

THOUGHTS BY JONATHAN EVANS

MATTHEW 11:29-30 (ESV)

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Have you encountered a dark night of the soul? A time of restlessness, abandonment, doubt and disconnection from God? "We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves," Thomas Merton observes, "and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God." The Christian view of peace is not just serenity and absence of conflict but *shalom* - a filling with the fullness of life.

"Our deepest longings for control, comfort, and community direct us towards the glory of God, which fulfils and keeps us. We pray with Augustine, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

This song, *Show Me Your Glory*, is the call for us to be refreshed and renewed in the glory of God. He provides all we long for in His shelter and protection. What are we asking for when we sing "show me Your glory?" Moses was the first to ask this in Exodus 33. God responds by shielding Moses in a cleft and passes by. He reveals His character, "The Lord, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sins." In God's glory, we encounter a power and person that will defend us against all other forces. That is where the bridge captures wonderfully, "Your voice is roaring like rushing water, Your power echoes like rolls of thunder. Your grace unending is overflowing. I wanna see You."

God has taken a further step in revealing His glory in King Jesus. Jesus lives out the previously unrevealed glory of God, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). We can know the true nature of God through the Son and experience Him in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the glory of God! We are asking for a revelation of Jesus, to see Him and know His power and love.

What should we expect from requesting a revelation of God's glory? Do we even know what we are asking? A fitting anecdote in C. S. Lewis's famous novel, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Lucy, learning that she would soon encounter the powerful King - a lion - asks, "Is Aslan safe?" A naïve question is given reassurance, "Oh no He's not safe, but He's good, He's the King I tell you!" Like Moses on the mountain and the disciples following Jesus, God is not safe. Encountering Jesus is sure to disrupt our reality, but He is good. The ultimate revelation of God's glory, which we ask for, is found at the cross - a not safe but sound place for friends of Jesus, like you and me, to abide.

This is where the first verse of *Show Me Your Glory* comes into play. "The voice of the Almighty One is calling me into His arms. Though I may feel I'm far from You, You are always holding me." At the cross of Jesus is an invitation. We realize in Jesus' outstretched arms, God is calling us to Himself.

"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

JESUS SEES US, OUR LONGINGS AND NEEDS. HE DOES NOT HOLD OUR SINS AGAINST US BUT REVEALS HIS GLORIOUS GRACE AND ETERNAL PROTECTION. JESUS' WORDS, "IT IS FINISHED!" REVERB ACROSS THE WORLD - A VERDICT OF VICTORY OVER DEATH AND PEACE FOR ALL WHO WILL SEE HIS GLORY.