

LET THE BEAUTY OF JESUS

THOUGHTS FROM MAJOR ISOBEL WAGNER

COVID-19 was a storm that rocked our world. At the outset of the pandemic, we often heard the phrase “We’re all in the same boat.” However, it soon became apparent that although we were in the same storm, we had very different “boats” or none at all to help us manage the waves. And, like the sediment stirred up in a lake in a storm, this tempest brought issues to the surface which had previously been unseen or ignored. From intense political divides, to racism, to poverty, to addiction, to homelessness, to mental health issues, to the underlying systemic injustices that perpetuated these conditions, we were confronted with the ugliness of our world.

Although COVID-19 was new, the underlying issues that it surfaced were not. And it was into this same fallen and broken world that God sent His Son to demonstrate His love, to reveal His nature and to save and redeem humanity (John 3:16). People were drawn to Jesus because in Him they saw beauty—compassion, courage, integrity, joy, faith, a heart for justice, and a deep and abiding love for others—holiness personified. And Jesus invites us into His holiness. Peter writes,

“As he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.”

1 Peter 1:15 (ESV)

It is into this same world that Jesus sends us. His holiness is integrally bound to His mission. His last words to His disciples before returning to heaven were, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,…” (Matthew 28:18-20) However, He did not leave them on their own and neither does He leave us on our own as we seek to fulfill His commission. He told his disciples that His leaving would benefit them because He would then send the Spirit to be with them, who would guide them into all truth (John 16:7,13). This same Spirit dwells in each Christ-follower and guides and instructs us in our walk with God, transforming us into the image of Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18). It is in this way that we reflect the beauty of Jesus in the world in which we live.

AND SO, WE CAN ENGAGE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AS WE SING THESE WORDS:

**WE ARE CALLED TO SEEK THE LOST,
TO SHOW THE WAY TO HIM.
PUT ASIDE YOUR DOUBTS, YOUR INMOST FEARS,
AND JUST LET HIS WORK BEGIN.**

**SO, LET THE BEAUTY OF JESUS BE SEEN IN ME,
ALL HIS WONDERFUL PASSION AND PURITY,
O THOU SPIRIT DIVINE, ALL MY NATURE REFINE,
LET THE BEAUTY OF JESUS BE SEEN IN ME.**

**GO WITH JESUS AS YOU ARE,
GO WITH YOUR JOY AND PAIN.
WHEN WE OFFER IN SINCERITY,
IT BRINGS GLORY TO HIS NAME.**