

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

741

Author Horatius Bonar

Composer Trad. English melody

Isaiah 55: 1-3

John 1: 1-5

Matthew 11: 28-29

Psalms 89: 15-18

Jeremiah 31: 25

Thoughts on the Text

There's *something* about Jesus; something good and fulfilling and inviting.

Matthew tells us that Jesus was talking about the kingdom of God when he said, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it." (Matthew 13:44-45, NRSV)

How good it is to be in the realm of God. This is the message of Jesus. There's a tenor of delight throughout the story of God for those who will look and pay attention and decide to follow Jesus. It is worth it. It is worth the whole road, the suffering, the hardness, to respond to the call of Christ. It is worth it because Jesus' invitations are not empty. It is worth it, because Jesus can be trusted.

But we all must hear "the voice of Jesus say" and invite. We all have the choice of responding or not responding to the voice of Jesus. In "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" we hear the call of Christ and sing the testimony of those who have heard and trusted. The one who has responded tells us it is worth it.

It is worth it to hear Jesus' invitation to rest: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) "I came to Jesus as I was, weary, and worn, and sad; I found in Him a resting place and He has made me glad."

It is worth it to hear Jesus' invitation to drink: "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life" John 4:13-14 (NRSV) "I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived and now I live in Him."

It is worth it to hear Jesus' invitation to walk in light: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) "I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun; and in that Light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done."

The hymn sings of the truth of Christ's words. The invitation is there. The testimony is there. The one who wrote these words has tried and found Christ trust-worthy. We also are invited to hear Christ, hear a witness, and respond. By Jesus' own words, following Him is like finding a treasure, like finding an incredible pearl. It's worth giving everything to have it. It's true: "O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him." (Psalm 34:8) Jesus' voice beckons us.