

Vol 6, Day 14: The Morphing Relationship with Jesus

At the beginning of our new life in Christ we were sure we knew all about Jesus. It was quite natural, a delight actually, to sell all we held dear and to cast ourselves wholeheartedly to Him out of passionately overwhelming love. But what on earth happened? Now we are not quite so sure we really knew what we were doing. At this point, after myriad disappointments, Jesus looks strange to us.

There is an aspect of Jesus that chills the heart of a disciple to the bone and makes the whole spiritual life gasp for breath. This strange Jesus with His face set like a flint in striding determination, strikes fear into me. He is no longer Counselor and Comrade. He now seems to hold a point of view I know nothing about. It scares me! And I am puzzled by Him.

At first I was confident that I understood Him. He was all about loving me! But now I am not so sure. I realize that there is a distance between Jesus Christ and me. I can not feel that wonderful familiarity with Him. He is ahead of me and He never turns round. I have no idea where He is going. And the goal has become very strange and distant.

Jesus Christ had to feel the effects of every sin and every sorrow man could experience. That is what makes Him seem strange. When we see Him in this light, He is very different to us. We don't recognize one feature of His life now, and we do not know how to follow Him. Our comradeship with Him has dissipated.

Take heart! The discipline of dismay is essential in the life of a disciple. Through the discouragement of unexpected adversity and calamity, we will see more of Who He is and how deeply He loves us. Once we experience His sustaining power over our dismal and discouraging circumstances, it will kindle a new fire of enthusiasm that will increase our trust and desire to be more like Him. When the darkness of dismay comes, endure until it is over, because out of it will come that following of Jesus which is overflowing with unspeakable joy.

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan