

3: Separated... then reunited – 5:2-6:12

Separation: when fellowship is broken - 5:2-7

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me” Revelation 3:20

“O Lord, why do you cast my soul away?
Why do you hide your face from me?” Psalm 88:14

Proclamation: why is He so special to you? - 5:8-16

Reconciliation: communion is renewed - 6:1-12

Conclusion: “altogether lovely”

Questions:

1. If Christ seems distant to you right now, could it help you to consider how special He is?
2. Consider these words from John Owen...

Meditation: “Altogether lovely” – John Owen (1616-1683)

Lovely in his *person*, – in the glorious all-sufficiency of his Deity, gracious purity and holiness of his humanity, authority and majesty, love and power.

Lovely in his *birth* and incarnation; when he was rich, for our sakes becoming poor, – taking part of flesh and blood, because we partook of the same; being made of a woman, that for us he might be made under the law, even for our sakes.

Lovely in the whole *course* of his life, and the more than angelical holiness and obedience which, in the depth of poverty and persecution, he exercised therein; – doing good, receiving evil; blessing, and being cursed, reviled, reproached, all his days.

Lovely in his *death*, yea, therein most lovely to sinners; – never more glorious and desirable than when he came broken, dead, from the cross. Then had he carried all our sins into a land of forgetfulness; then had he made peace and reconciliation for us; then had he procured life and immortality for us.

Lovely in his whole *employment*, in his great undertaking, – in his *life, death, resurrection, ascension*; being a mediator between God and us, to recover

the glory of God's justice, and to save our souls, – to bring us to an enjoyment of God, who were set at such an infinite distance from him by sin.

Lovely in the glory and majesty wherewith he is *crowned*. Now he is set down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; where, though he be terrible to his enemies, yet he is full of mercy, love, and compassion, towards his beloved ones.

Lovely in all those *supplies of grace and consolations*, in all the dispensations of his Holy Spirit, whereof his saints are made partakers.

Lovely in all the *tender care, power, and wisdom*, which he exercises in the protection, safe-guarding, and delivery of his church and people, in the midst of all the oppositions and persecutions whereunto they are exposed.

Lovely in all his *ordinances*, and the whole of that spiritually glorious worship which he hath appointed to his people, whereby they draw nigh and have communion with him and his Father.

Lovely and glorious in the *vengeance* he taketh, and will finally execute, upon the stubborn enemies of himself and his people.

Lovely in the *pardon* he hath purchased and doth dispense, – in the reconciliation he hath established, – in the grace he communicates, – in the consolations he doth administer, – in the peace and joy he gives his saints, – in his assured preservation of them unto glory.

What shall I say? There is no end of his excellencies and desirableness; – “He is altogether lovely. This is our beloved, and this is our friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.”