

sunday solace - the music and the rest

"He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself." matt 14:13

there is no music in a rest, but there is the making of music in it. in our whole life-melody the music is broken off here and there by moments of rest, and we foolishly think we have come to the end of the tune.

God sends a time of forced leisure, sickness, disappointed plans, frustrated efforts, and makes a sudden pause in the hymn of our lives. we lament that our voices must be silent, and our part missing in the music which ever goes up to the ear of our Creator. after the rest, He will pick up the beat in time, and catch up the next note true and steady, as if no breaking place had come between.

not without design does God write the music of our lives. ours is but to learn the tune, and not be dismayed at the rest stops. they are merely the chorus and not to be skipped over, not to be omitted, not to destroy the melody, not to change the keynote. if we look up, God Himself will beat the time for us.

with the eye on Him, we shall strike the next note full and clear. if we sadly say to ourselves, "there is no music in a rest," let us not forget "there is the making of music in it." the making of music is often a slow and painful process in this life. how patiently God works to teach us! how long He waits for us to learn the music!

called aside –  
from the glad working of thy busy life,  
from the world's ceaseless stir of care and strife,  
into the shade and stillness by thy Heavenly Guide  
for a brief space thou hast been called aside.

called aside –  
perhaps into a desert garden dim;  
and yet not alone, when thou hast been with Him,  
and heard His voice in sweetest accents say:  
"child, wilt thou not with Me this still hour stay?"

called aside –  
in hidden paths with Christ thy Lord to tread,  
deeper to drink at the sweet fountainhead,  
closer in fellowship with Him to roam,  
nearer, perchance, to feel Thy heavenly home.

called aside –  
oh, knowledge deeper grows with Him alone;  
in secret of His deeper love is shown,  
and learnt in many an hour of dark distress  
some rare, sweet lesson of His tenderness.

called aside –  
we thank Thee for the stillness and the shade;  
we thank Thee for the hidden paths Thy love hath made,  
and, so that we have wept and watched with Thee,  
we thank Thee for our dark gethsemane.

called aside –  
oh, restful thought – He doeth all things well;  
oh, blessed sense, with Christ alone to dwell;  
so in the shadow of Thy cross to hide,

we thank Thee, Lord, to have been called aside.

He is calling us all aside at this time. "be still,  
and know that I am God." psa 46:10 not to worry. the  
song will soon pick up it's melody.