

XIV. THE RELENTLESS LOVE OF JESUS (185)

... We must remind ourselves that He who patiently knocks is the King of Kings, the Judge of all the earth, the Lover of Souls, but a Lover whose love has relentless, inexorable qualities in it besides those of the 'Gentle Jesus.' ... I am in such danger myself of over-emphasizing the tender and winsome qualities of the Master that I want in this chapter to point out that... (185-86).

[cont'd] ...He is not only a Physician who can use a tender touch, but a Surgeon who can, and may have to use cold steel (186).

But don't think of love, as least His love, as something soft and kindly and tolerant (192-93).

So violent is Jesus sometimes, so stern, so austere, so surgical, so insistent on reality, so relentless, so inexorable, that I sometimes wonder whether, when He said, 'I am meek and lowly in heart'—a strange thing to say—it was because He had definitely to tell them that this was His real nature, lest men should gather a wrong impression from the vehemence of some of His words (189).

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matt. 11:28-30).

Your friendship with Him, which I think is the centre of all Christian experience, will only be on His terms, and He is a relentless, inexorable, violent Lover who loves us relentlessly so as to save us from the hard heart and the impenitent spirit, and that awful death of the soul which makes us unconscious that we are doing wrong (193).

XVI. THE RADIANCE OF JESUS (205)

... [T]he bad name the Christian has got for himself as a person of long face and solemn demeanour partly derives from a picture of Christ which depicted him as the Man of Sorrows (207).

Tell my children that

I am not only tender of their feelings and patient with their frailties, but that I am also ruthless with sin

and intolerant of iniquity.

I am indeed meek and humble in the presence of my Father,

but I am equally and relentlessly inexorable where there is deliberate evil-doing and sinful rebellion against the will of my Father in heaven.

10 You shall not portray your teacher as a man of sorrows.