

A Mighty Change

“Christ says, ‘Give me all. I don’t want so much of your time, or so much of your money, or so much of your work, I want you. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half measures are any good. I don’t want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want the tree down. I don’t want to drill the tooth, or crown it, or stop it, I want it out. Hand over your whole natural self, all the desires, the ones that you think are innocent, as well as the ones that you think are wicked. You give me the whole outfit, and I will give you a new self. In fact, I will give you myself, and my will shall become you will.’ The terrible thing, of course, the almost impossible thing is to hand over your whole self, all your wishes, and all your precautions to Christ. But that is far easier than what we are all trying to do instead. For what we are trying to do instead is remain what we call “ourselves”, to keep personal happiness as our great aim in life, and yet at the same time to be reasonably good. We’re all trying to let our mind and heart go their own way, centered on money, or sex, or pleasure, or ambition, and hoping in spite of this to behave honestly and humbly, and that is exactly what Christ warned us that we could not do. He said a thistle cannot produce figs. (Matt. 7:16) If I’m a field that contains nothing but grass seed, I cannot produce wheat. Cutting the grass may keep it short, but I shall still produce grass and never wheat. If I want to produce wheat the change must go deeper than the surface. I must be ploughed up and re-sown. It’s the difference between paint which is simply on the surface and a dye or a stain that soaks right through. He never talked vaguely. He said, ‘Be perfect’, and he meant it. He meant that we must go in for the full treatment. See, I have chosen you; you haven’t chosen me. You come to this on MY terms, and I want for you the full treatment. Now that’s hard. But the sort of compromise we’re hankering after is harder still, in fact, it’s impossible. It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird, but it’s a jolly sight harder for an egg to learn to fly. We are like eggs at present, and you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary decent egg. Someday you have to be hatched or go bad... It is hard for an egg to become a bird, but it is impossible for an egg to learn to fly.”

Jeff Holland,
Vacation Village,
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