

Dec 23. I Love Thee Lord Jesus

I love Thee Lord Jesus'-

This is the response of the writer of the children's carol 'Away in a manger'. He says -

'I love Thee Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
Until morning is nigh'

A simple carol for the smallest of children, but the most profound and important of responses that I found myself thinking about this week.

It's what all true believers should say as they think about the love of God for them - shown not just in Him taking humanity but when 'He loved me and gave Himself for me'. And He did this when we didn't acknowledge or worship Him. Just the opposite in fact. Yet He moved towards us. We can only 'love Him because He first loved us.' And His love has so many wonderful dimensions to it, in all its magnificence. Paul says in Ephesians 3 that it actually 'passes knowledge'.

But Jesus asks of us a question. It's the same one He asked Peter on the seashore - 'do you love me?' In fact He asked him three times and He asks it of us too!

Do you love me because I came from heaven for you? Do you love me when you look to Calvary and see my suffering? Do you love me more than you love the ways of this world? Do you love me enough to follow me and obey me?

At one level they are easy words to say. But to say them with meaning and sincerity and consistently is another thing completely. I hope, this Christmas to be able to sing this simple carol in a way that lets my Saviour hear the words He wants to hear from me - 'Lord Jesus I love You'.



Thank You, Lord, that You are The Wonderful Counsellor and Prince of Peace, even in the midst of our not-so-merry circumstances. Lord, we ask You to grant us peace and love. In our homes, in our churches, and in our hearts, when the world all around us spins out-of-control. Help us to stay focussed on loving You, this Advent season and always. Thank You for loving the whole world enough to send the greatest gift, Your Son, so that we might truly have a very merry Christmas. In Jesus' Name, Amen.