

School of Sorrow

by Charles E. Cowman

God uses our experiences of sorrow to educate and train us for the choir invisible, giving us a unique part in the universal song.

Scripture: Psalm 30:5, Psalm 34:18, Isaiah 43:2, Romans 8:18, Revelation 14:3

Topics: "Suffering And Faith", "Spiritual Growth"

Description

Charles E. Cowman delivers a sermon on the unique songs that can only be learned in the valleys of life, emphasizing that these melodies of personal experience and triumph are sung by the redeemed. He highlights the idea that sorrow is not just a test but a means of education and preparation for a special role in the universal song orchestrated by God. Through the metaphor of music, he encourages embracing the lessons taught in the school of sorrow, as they shape and refine one's voice for a distinct part in the choir invisible.

Transcript

"And no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth" (Rev. 14:3).

There are songs which can only be learned in the valley. No art can teach them; no rules of voice can make them perfectly sung. Their music is in the heart. They are songs of memory, of personal experience. They bring out their burden from the shadow of the past; they mount on the wings of yesterday.

St. John says that even in Heaven there will be a song that can only be fully sung by the sons of earth--the strain of redemption. Doubtless it is a song of triumph, a hymn of victory to the Christ who made us free. But the sense of triumph must come from the memory of the chain.

No angel, no archangel can sing it so sweetly as I can. To sing it as I sing it, they must pass through my exile, and this they cannot do. None can learn it but the children of the Cross.

And so, my soul, thou art receiving a music lesson from thy Father. Thou art being educated for the choir invisible. There are parts of the symphony that none can take but thee.

There are chords too minor for the angels. There may be heights in the symphony which are beyond the scale--heights which angels alone can reach; but there are depths which belong to thee, and can only be touched by thee.

Thy Father is training thee for the part the angels cannot sing; and the school is sorrow. I have heard many say that He sends sorrow to prove thee; nay, He sends sorrow to educate thee, to train thee for the choir invisible.

In the night He is preparing thy song. In the valley He is tuning thy voice. In the cloud He is deepening thy chords. In the rain He is sweetening thy melody. In the cold He is moulding thy expression. In the transition from hope to fear He is perfecting thy lights.

Despise not thy school of sorrow, O my soul; it will give thee a unique part in the universal song. --George Matheson

"Is the midnight closing round you?

Are the shadows dark and long?

Ask Him to come close beside you,

And He'll give you a new, sweet song.

He'll give it and sing it with you;

And when weakness lets it down,

He'll take up the broken cadence,

And blend it with His own.

"And many a rapturous minstrel

Among those sons of light,

Will say of His sweetest music

'I learned it in the night.'

And many a rolling anthem,

That fills the Father's home,

Sobbed out its first rehearsal,

In the shade of a darkened room."

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/charles-e-cowman/school-of-sorrow/>

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