

Jesus TOT

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

Given the unflattering characteristics of self-seeking and uncontrollable anger, one would think that John probably did not amount to much and that Jesus could not really use him to communicate His gospel of love. Jesus surely could not have any use for angry people; he could not have invited a “rageaholic” like John to be His representative. If you think so, think again! You are in for quite a surprise...

John, who had started his journey with Jesus as an ordinary, angry, and self-seeking man, accepted Jesus’ extraordinary love and came to call himself “the one whom Jesus loves,” because he dared to believe that Jesus really did love him. He never looked at himself primarily as a disciple, a pastor, an apostle, or anything else related to what he was doing. He was consistently the one *whom* Jesus loved, the continuous recipient of His extraordinary love. That was his real self, his identity, his motivation to work for Christ, and his source of strength and courage in his trials—he was the one Jesus loved. That love animated his life, motivated his ministry, and was the core of his message to this world. This was not a message that he had learned from a book or in a school, this was the message borne out of his real-life experience with Jesus—being the one Jesus loved.

If you were called a son or daughter of thunder, do you think you would qualify for the label? ... John is inviting us into a fellowship of ordinary, and in many ways flawed, people who have realized their brokenness and have discovered the extraordinary love Jesus has for them... [This is] the gathering of sons and daughters of thunder who are being drawn by the incredible grace and love of Jesus; these are the people whom Jesus loves. Welcome to the club, friend!

Ozolins & Talbot, *Radical Discipleship*, pp. 18-20.