



WONDERFUL COUNSELOR | Jon Walker

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders.
And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
ISAIAH 9:6*

I had no idea what to say. The person sitting across from me had just shared a deeply painful situation that ended with “What should I do?” Truthfully, I didn’t know. I wished that the words would just magically come to me. This person was seeking counsel and all I could think was how much I needed it myself.

Whether we admit it or not we will need counsel all of our lives. Some of us will be asked to give the counsel and that will reveal to us where our wisdom falls short. Others of us will seek counsel because we have a complex situation and need an outside perspective to determine what’s true. Sometimes simple everyday occurrences show us that we need some direction to know how to proceed. We all need counsel, truth and wisdom. Not just from any source, we need it from the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus, who is God in the flesh.

To call Jesus wonderful is to use the word more powerfully than we tend to in our culture. We often use the term wonderful for something that is pleasing and enjoyable. But to say that Jesus is wonderful is to say that he truly is full of wonder. It means that he is miraculous, marvelous, astounding and awe inspiring. The word wonderful is reserved as a descriptor for God and his works. In Exodus 15:11, after having just witnessed the power of God through the plagues upon Egypt and the parting of the Red Sea, Moses says: “Who is like you O LORD...performing wonders.” Jesus, being God, is one in the same: the one who does wonders. It is wonderful that Jesus came to humanity as a human himself, not demanding we earn our way to him. It is miraculous that he is the Son of God, born of a virgin. It is marvelous that he lived a sinless life and taught the people with the authority of God. It is astounding that he proved his power through miracles and healing. It should leave us filled with awe that he loves us so much to die in our place, taking the punishment for sin that we deserved. It is amazing that three days later he proved who he is by conquering death and rising again. To say that Jesus is wonderful is to declare that he is God who performs what is wonderful.

To call Jesus “counselor” is to use a word that was often used for kings and leaders who were to be trusted, followed and revered. These type of kings spoke truth, spoke it with great wisdom and led their people toward what was good. Matthew 12:42 tells us that Jesus’ coming brought one whose wisdom was greater than even the wise King Solomon. Jesus is the king not only of Israel, but the whole of creation and the whole of our lives. Colossians 2:3 tells us that Jesus the one “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” This includes everything about your life and mine, down to the smallest detail. “O LORD, you have searched me and known me!” (Psalm 139:1). Jesus isn’t just wise, he is the wisdom of God displayed. Therefore, his teaching and words are perfect. His words are trustworthy because they are the very words of God who does wonders.

Jesus is not only a counselor, he is the Wonderful Counselor and this means so much for you and I right now. When scripture holds something to be true, it is, even if our culture doesn’t believe it. When we need wisdom and truth, the Bible is the first place we turn, even if there are other voices competing for our attention. When Jesus says something will happen, it will, even if we question it. When he promises to be with us and work in our everyday life, he will, even if we cannot see it. It means that obeying his words above all else leads to wisdom and good in our lives, even if we are used to doing the exact opposite. It also means that his words about our life can be trusted. When he says that we are people who are loved by God but need to live out repentance and humility before him, we do, even if pride in our hearts screams the opposite. When Jesus declares you and I to be miraculously forgiven of sin and righteous through trust in his death and resurrection, we are, even if we don’t feel it at the moment. What Jesus says is true, is true. Including what he powerfully says about you.

He is, has always been and will always be our Wonderful Counselor.