

## SPIRITUALITY OF UNITY

# Call him **by name**

**I**t is always a great discovery to see how we can, in a certain way, give the name 'Jesus Forsaken' to every suffering and trial of life. Are we overwhelmed by fear? Didn't Jesus on the cross in his abandonment seem to be overcome with the fear that the Father may have forgotten him? Do circumstances cause us to feel disoriented? In his tremendous suffering, Jesus seems not to understand anything of what is happening to him and cries out, 'Why?' (cf. Mt. 27: 46; Mk 15: 34). Are we contradicted? Doesn't it seem in the abandonment that the Father doesn't approve of what Jesus is doing? Have we been reprimanded, or been faced with accusations? On the cross, Jesus in his abandonment perhaps had the impression of being reprimanded, or being accused even by heaven.

And then, in certain trials in life that can follow one right after another, don't we sometimes even reach the point of saying, 'This is all too much, this is beyond the limit'? In his abandonment, Jesus drank from a bitter chalice that was not only full, but overflowing. His trial was one that was beyond every limit. And when we are surprised by disappointments, or wounded by a trauma, or by an unforeseen misfortune, or by an illness or an absurd situation, we can always recall the suffering of Jesus Forsaken who personified all these trials and thousands of others.

Yes, he is present in everything that can cause suffering. Each suffering is another name for him. There is an expression used in the world, which says that you call your loved one by name. We have decided to love Jesus Forsaken. And so, to better succeed in doing that, let's get used to calling him by name in the various trials of our life. We will call him: Jesus Forsaken-loneliness, Jesus Forsaken-doubt, Jesus Forsaken-injury, Jesus Forsaken-trial, Jesus Forsaken-desolation, and so forth. And calling him by name, he will see that he is discovered and recognized under every suffering, and will respond to us with more love. By embracing him, he will become our peace, our comfort, our courage, our stability, our health and our victory. He will be the explanation for everything, the solution to everything. 🍌

We conclude this year's theme on Jesus Forsaken with a meditation by **Chiara Lubich** (1986).



Extracts from 'Jesus Forsaken' by Chiara Lubich. Published by New City (2016).