

This Man Called Jesus

Poetry based on
“The Life of Christ Series”
(From sermons preached by
Tom Shoff - 2011
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This Man Called Jesus

When Jesus walked
by the shores of the sea,
Was he walking beside,
or carrying me?

When Jesus taught
in the temple courts,
Did I understand what
his message was for?

When Jesus came
as a guest to my home,
Did I welcome him in
or leave him alone?

When he pulled me aside
to ask of my needs,
did I open my heart
or silently plead?

Have I sought his word
with open ears,
Or closed my mind
imprisoned by fear?

A man of compassion
and love and prayer
My Lord Jesus Christ,
so willing to share.

Who Is Wrong and Who Is Right?

When Jesus speaks his holy word,
Do we know just what we've heard?
Do we understand the meaning
it implies?

Do you say unto yourself
He cannot know wherein I dwell...
cannot know my heart and know
how hard I've tried?

When he dines with thieves and sinners,
Does that mean they are the winners
In this battle over what is
right and wrong?

Is he there to sing and dance
and enjoy their life of chance,
Or has he gone unto the weak
to make them strong?

So who is wrong and who is right?
Oh let us pray throughout the night
That we will see the truth
ere it's too late.

For both our triumphs and our trials
Will go on for yet awhile
Until our Savior comes again
to set us straight.

Sowing Seed

Jesus spoke in parables
for all with ears to hear.
Sometimes his words fell
on hard and rocky soil,
on sinful hearts which
knew not how to fear,
or on shallow soil
where fruit would
never grow.

Jesus spoke in parables
for all with ears to hear.
Sometimes his words fell
on thorny, crowded soil
in hearts where godly crops
cannot feel Him near,
crowded by desires
for things we
do not need.

Jesus spoke in parables
for all with ears to hear.
And when his words fell
on good and fertile soil,
in hearts prepared to receive
the seed he planted
grew and multiplied,
and when pruned
kept growing
more and more.

How Do We See Jesus?

To the Pharisees, Jesus stood condemned
as he seemed to break the laws of man.

They were jealous of the crowd
at his feet.

To the multitude, He became a provider
and they kept coming back for more
as he fed and healed the sick and
ones in need.

To His family, he was viewed crazed
and He wondered at their unbelief
for a family should love and
support its own.

To the Scribes, he was demon-possessed,
empowered by Satan himself,
casting out spirits he himself
had always known.

Only the demons saw the Son of God
yet he bid them all be quiet
and not to pull apart
God's holy plan.

So how do WE see Jesus?
A law breaker, a provider, a demon?
Or do we truly see the
Son of Man?

Even though He tried to teach us,
some will still resist His call,
and refuse to see the truth in
what He said.

But to those of us who do see
our true Savior and Defender,
we allow ourselves by Jesus
to be led

When we believe in Jesus
we believe the Words he spoke.
For in His Word we see how
His love flows.

Then gently comes His peace upon us
and, by Grace, eternal life
just as He promised us
so long ago.



Jesus is Lord

Jesus is Lord over demons,
Lord of spirits above and below.
The tormented souls of those possessed
tremble in fear wherever He goes.

Jesus is Lord over disease
Crowds came for the power of His touch.
He was the savior, the healer of many
who, in their lives, had endured so much.

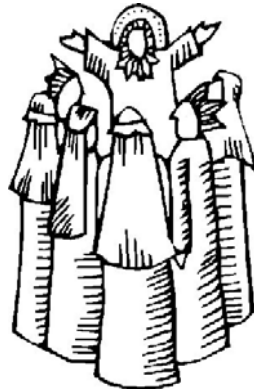
To receive true victory in Jesus,
all things must occur in due course.
Understanding comes with knowledge,
then faith which can never be forced.

Your faith must be freely given,
unshakeable, unbendable, and true.
in order for Jesus to raise you up
just as He promised to do.

Jesus is Lord over death
if you humble yourself before Him.
If you open your heart to Jesus
He will fill it right up to the brim.

It's then that your faith will be tested,
and Satan will knock at your door.
And if you let go of the faith in your heart,
you'll be shaken right down to the core.

But in having Jesus as Lord
you have joined the strongest of teams.
You're fighting now on the winning side,
marching on among the redeemed!



Master of Compassion

Jesus had compassion for the bereaved,
for those needing to be alone.
Sometimes no words should be spoken
allowing the heart time to groan.

He had compassion for the hungry,
for those lingering to hear his voice.
With five loaves, two fish and his word
Five thousand were fed and rejoiced!

He had compassion for the struggling
when their labor was too much to bear,
when temptation and strife wore them down
He showed them how much He cared.

He had compassion for the wayward,
for the ailing, the sick and diseased,
even those who wandered and stumbled
his miraculous blessings received.

Yes, Jesus was compassionate,
sympathetic and loving, and true.
He made of his life an example
just as you and I ought to do.



The Wanderer

There seemed to be no place on earth
where Jesus could stop and rest
for crowds of people followed him
knowing that he was blessed.

They followed him to Galilee,
found him eating with unwashed hands,
breaking the laws of the Pharisees,
the laws put forth by man.

Jesus called all of them hypocrites
and repeated Isaiah's words.
He told them that the laws of God
were the ones they should observe.

He sought respite in someone's home,
but the needy would not be denied.
They hungered for his healing touch.
For his miracles they cried.

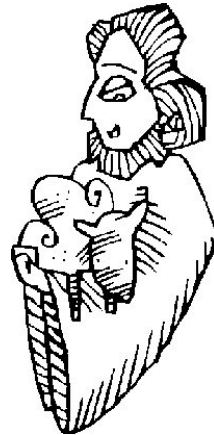
A multitude of seekers
followed his every step
Both the Jews and the Gentiles
learned the ways he kept.

They followed him up to the mountain
when he oft' sought refuge there.
They asked for healing in their lives
for they knew that he would share.

Wherever Jesus wandered
he found no place to hide
for there is no rest for the weary
when heaven and earth collide.

Even now as you go seeking Jesus
with your heart and your body and soul,
you'll still find him willing to heal you
and welcome you into his fold.

And when in the end he returns
seeking his sheep where they roam,
we'll rejoice along with the angels,
and follow our Shepherd on home.



Mid-term Exam

Jesus the teacher said unto man,
“Have you not learned anything yet?”
Have you been listening? Are you awake?
You can just raise your hand
if you don't understand!

Jesus the leader asked his disciples
“What is the public's opinion of me?”
Do they call me John or Jeremiah?
What are they saying today?
Do they say that I am the way?

Jesus the Christ said to his own
“Who do YOU also say that I am?”
Peter proclaimed that I am the Christ.
I hope that you also believe and sing
‘Christ the prophet, priest and king!’”

Jesus the Savior asks of us all
“If you are rich in material things
but in spirit you are still poor,
where is your loyalty likely to go?
Answer wisely so others will know!”

You can answer his questions in a word
,,or two, or just a nod of the head,
but Jesus still likes an essay form
to explain the words in your heart
and the truth each lesson imparts.

So think about talking in depth to Jesus
as you take your oral exams,
and don't be ashamed that you know him.
Proclaim him by faith, and word, and deed
and he will fulfill your every need!



On the Mount of Transfiguration

The disciples on the mount
were confused by the count
and asked some silly questions that night.

With Jesus stood two others
prophets of old, Christian brothers
and they saw Jesus bathed in blinding white.

The disciples wished to stay
but Jesus told them "Nay"
and gave them several reasons they must go.

The people are in chaos.
They question and are lost.
"Bring them all to me," sayeth Jesus.

There was still work to do
and their options here were few.
"Go and make disciples," sayeth Jesus.

They were not ready yet,
their duties not quite set.
"Whoever would be first will be last," sayeth Jesus.

People are going to hell
stumbling where they dwell.
"Remove their stumbling blocks," sayeth Jesus.

People need to hear the word.
God's instructions must be heard.
"Go forth and teach my children," sayeth Jesus.

"Though you desire to stay,
I am sending you away
for there's so much more to do," sayeth Jesus.



Always the Teacher

“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

The Pharisees asked of Jesus.

“What God has joined together is forever
and ever one sacred and holy life.”

They brought little children for him to touch
but his disciples turned them away.
Yet, Jesus held the little ones close to his heart
and, of love, taught them so much.

“How can I make eternity mine?”

a man asked Jesus one day.

“Deplete all your riches,” sayeth the Lord
“for whoever is first will be last in my time.”

On the road to Jerusalem Jesus foretold
of his coming death on the cross,
of mockery and pain and shame
and of the life a tomb could not hold.

“May we sit with you in glory?” they asked

Both James and John yearned for that honor.

“Don’t bicker over who will be best,” he replied
Be humble, serve others, and learn from the past.”

Those who can’t see don’t know what’s in store
but be of good cheer for he’s calling to you.
Cast off your burdens and come to the Lord,
the teacher, the healer, confessor and more.



Man On A Mission

Jesus came to Jerusalem
as a long ago prophesied king.
He came on a little donkey,
on a colt which he had borrowed.
He came in peace with a purpose
to pay for our sin and sorrow.

He came to the city of Zion
as a long awaited savior.
“Hosanna!” the people shouted.
“Here comes our glorious king!
Oh let us make preparations
for the changes he surely brings!”

As a winnowing judge he came
to holy streets of Jerusalem
He had to cleanse the temple again,
to prune the unfruitful tree,
for their own deceit and sins
they could not, would not see.

Again we stand at a crossroad.
Which way are we going to turn?
How do you think he would judge
the erring church of today?
What do you think he would do?
What do you think he would say?

He was Jesus the savior,
the king and the judge
a man on a mighty mission.
He came to pay the price.
He came to redeem his own
even if it cost his life!

He'll come again one day
with his fine honed pruning knife
to cut the weeds from his garden
and claim a great crop of his own —
his children fragrant and flowered —
then take his sweet bouquet home!



Tough Questions

The Pharisees wanted to know,
“Do we pay these taxes to Caesar?”
“Why do you test me?” Jesus replied
“Is Caesar’s image imprinted there?”
“Yes,” the Pharisees said.
“Then give to Caesar his share!”

The Sadducees asked about eternity,
“If a widowed woman has
married seven brothers in turn,
whose spouse will she be in heaven?”
“Why do you not understand?
Your God is God of the living,
in heaven she’ll be wife to no man.”

The Scribes had another question,
“Which commandment is most important?”
Jesus answered, “The Lord our God is one
and we must love him with all our heart,
all our soul, strength, and mind.
Next we must love our neighbor as ourselves.
No greater commandments will you find.”

The Scribes, at least, accepted
the words which Jesus spoke
for they knew he spoke the truth.
“More important than burnt offerings
and sacrifices are these things you say.”
Then no one dared to question him
as Jesus went on his way.

Try to Remember

There are many things to know about Jesus
and the time of his coming again.

Will you be ready and waiting,
or will you still be steeped in sin?

The day of His coming is unknown
and if, as Christians, we've biblically grown
we would understand this truth.

We would never ask God for the date.

His coming will happen on a regular day

No special sign will point the way
toward the time and place of his coming.

Repent now before it's too late!

The dead in Christ will be taken first
and then his children who hunger and thirst
for the Lord, his precious harvest
of wheat, beautiful golden buds.

His coming will surprise many people
and there will be turmoil and weeping
fading hope and uncontrolled grief
for those not washed in the Blood.

There are many things to know about Jesus
and the time of his coming again.

Will you be ready and waiting,
or will you still be steeped in sin?

Crisis Reveals Character

Mary, the sister of Martha
Brought oil to the upper room,
Oil of Nard to anoint His feet –
A waste of funds, or a sacrifice sweet?

Although it offended others,
Jesus praised her loving act.

Judas was a wretched traitor
a betrayer seeking reward.
For thirty silver coins we're told,
He betrayed a friendship of finest gold.

He was a man not to be trusted,
a turncoat proven by fact.

The ten disciples, like frightened sheep
Fled from impending doom.
Although, they promised to remain by his side,
fright became panic and they ran to hide.

Naked fear, bare, unclothed,
witnessed them fleeing into the night.

Peter swore that he'd remain true;
Yet, he lied and denied and cursed aloud.
And then he saw, as the cock crowed again
The eyes of Jesus convicting him.

So let us not a betrayer be
Help us remain ever true in they sight!

'Though failures may come time after time
remember that failure isn't the end.
Don't give life away like Judas Iscariot.
But, like Peter, repent and begin again!



Who Crucified Jesus?

God the Father crucified Jesus
by his own eternal plan.
He sent him here to save the world
to die for sinful man.

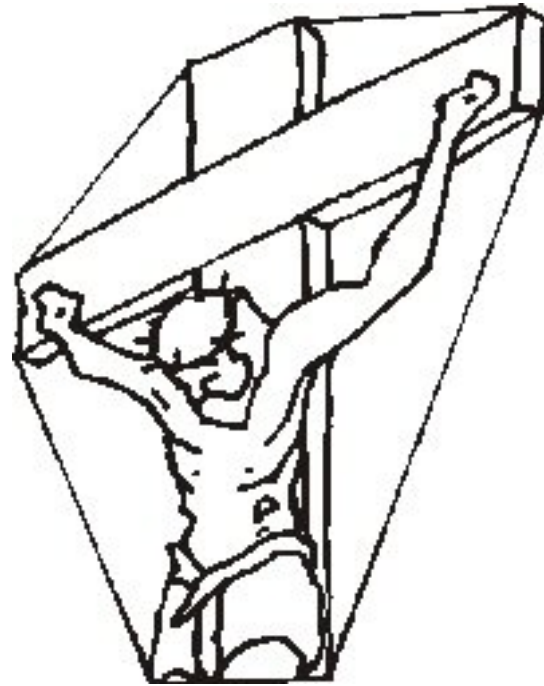
Pilate crucified Jesus
by allowing the crowds to reign.
His questions were meant to save him
for in Jesus he found no blame.

The Chief Priests crucified Jesus.
Our of envy they stirred the crowds.
They mocked him for not saving himself
and shouted their taunts aloud.

The crowd also crucified Jesus,
a multitude of puppets in action,
pressured by the Jewish high priests
to create a rebellious faction.

The Roman soldiers crucified Jesus.
The scourged him with bullying power.
They beat his body and mocked his name
and nailed him up in that awful third hour.

And I too have crucified Jesus
to die for God's children living now
for he came to die for my sins,
just as he died for them way back then.



Jesus, Bringer of Hope

How can there be any hope
in those who saw their savior die?
their hope is resigned in mourning
as they continue to wonder “Why?”
and “Who will roll the away the stone?”
for the women who have come to anoint
the body of Jesus, their master,
the body so cold and alone.

Then hope was rekindled
in an angel’s words
A few simple words from an angel,
restoring the hope of them all
“He is not here,” the angel said
“Behold the empty tomb!”
Then they began to remember
and Jesus’ words recall.

New hope was revealed to a few,
to those who were not deceived.
“I have seen our Lord and Master!” they said
but others refused to believe.
The tomb was no longer empty.
They looked but could not understand
until they touched his bleeding side
aghast at the blood on their hands!

He gave them a great commission –
instructions on how to proceed.
And with their hope renewed,

they went out to teach His Word
so we must today continue to teach
and spread the good news of Jesus,
sharing his hope and his love
until the whole world has heard.



Remember the man
Remember the plan
We must do all we can
To remain in his hands



May the good Lord bless and keep you
As you continue to learn about and know Jesus.

