

1. Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
Things I would ask Him to tell me if He were here;
Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
2. Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.
- 3.
4. First let me hear how the children stood round His knee,
And I shall fancy His blessing resting on me;
Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
All in the love light of Jesus' face.
- 5.
6. Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea,
Tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee;
And how the Maker, ready and kind,
Chided the billows, and hushed the wind.
- 7.
8. Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
Waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
One of His heralds, yes, I would sing
Loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

Just a few words this morning. Here we are, on the brink of Holy Week.

Do you remember the hymn 'Tell me the stories of Jesus'...I love the verse which is appropriate for today:

Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
Waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
One of His heralds, yes, I would sing
Loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

How about this Holy Week, we simply use our imaginations and enter the events? Why don't we follow the children's band, waving our palm branches high in our hands. Why not be heralds and sing 'Jesus is King'? We have just heard the Passion Gospel...the account of Jesus' last days. It is a string of stories:

The costly ointment poured on Jesus head, the last supper in the large upstairs room, the long night of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane when the disciples couldn't stay awake, Jesus' betrayal with the arrival of Judas and the chief priests, the scribes and the elders, the trial before the chief priests and the trial before Pilate...Jesus carrying his cross walking to Golgotha and finally his crucifixion

It struck me recently that it is only once a year that we really focus on Jesus' crucifixion, and other significant events in his last days - the Last Supper (the sacrament of Holy Communion), Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet, the New Commandment to love one another, the trial before Pilate, the Way of the Cross.

This is not an easy part of our story. Maybe some of us shy away unconsciously. But Jesus did suffer and die. The verse from 'Tell me the stories of Jesus goes there.'

Show me that scene in the garden, of bitter pain;
Show me the cross where my Savior for me was slain;
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be
Stories of Jesus—tell them to me.

We need to hear all the stories, the 'sad ones and bright ones'. The Stations of the cross on Good Friday is time when we can imagine ourselves walking by Jesus' side as he carries his cross...maybe reaching over and carrying it too...easing his burden. We realize Jesus understands completely our suffering, our discouragements and fears, because he suffered them too. But he came through suffering and death. He burst through the other side ...new life came after the grave, showing us God's loving purpose for us...God chooses life for us too.

**May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with us to the end of our road;
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands teach us to serve each other;
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart be our love forever;
When we go out, may we see the face of Jesus in everyone we meet;
And may everyone we meet see the face of Jesus in us.**

(Source Unknown)

