

# **The Gospel of Luke in Verse.**

**Put into verse by Zoltan Paul Dienes**

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## **Preface by Allison A. Trites.**

**This is a creative effort to put Luke's Gospel into verse, using the well-known devices of English poetry. A serious attempt is made to use the meters that have been employed since classical times. Dr. Dienes, who is familiar with a considerable number of languages both ancient and modern, has made use of such metrical structures as the spondee, trochee, dactyl and anapest, not to mention his frequent use of the tetrameter and the hexameter. This labour of love has led him to develop a poetic version of the Gospel of Luke that reads well and prompts fresh reflection on the meaning of this lovely Gospel, one that has sometimes been entitled "the most beautiful book in the world."**

**Of course various attempts have been made in previous times to develop metrical versions of parts of the Bible. One thinks immediately of metrical versions of the psalms and the Scottish paraphrases once in wide use in Presbyterian and Reformed circles. Some of the skillful work of the great eighteenth century hymn writer Isaac Watts would fit this description, but as far as I know, no sustained attempt in recent times has been made to provide a metrical arrangement of the whole of a canonical Gospel. As such, the care and industry needed by the arranger to take up this noble task is commendable.**

**Let me make a few comments on the valiant effort of Dr. Dienes to meet this challenge with respect to the Gospel of Luke. First, the effort is characterized by a sincere concern to be faithful to the general import of the text.. Second, the work is marked by playful touches of humour that make the poetic work thought-provoking and challenging. The treatment of both the Good Samaritan and the incident in the home of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:25-37, 38-42) may be cited as refreshing examples here.**

**All this artistry is accomplished by pleasing rhythms and meter. Perhaps most important of all, the work is presented with a great respect for the Gospel message and a desire to communicate it relevantly to readers. The delightful rendering of Luke's Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20-49) and the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36) are striking cases in point.**

**No attempt has been made to use the devices of Hebrew poetry such as synonymous, paratactic, or antithetic parallelism; instead the devices of European poetry have been used to communicate the message with charm and warmth. Good use is made of rhymes, rhythms, assonance and the like. Sometimes, for example, Dr. Dienes used four elongated anapests, the device he has discovered only in Hungarian poetry.**

**I have read this beautiful expression of Luke's Gospel with delight and profit. I believe it will bless and edify a wide circle of readers who have an appreciation for the spiritual message of the Bible cloaked in a delightful aesthetic garment.**

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## **Introduction.**

**I offer this work to the public with a certain amount of trepidation. The Gospels are part of a set of holy books, inspired by God Himself, and to do anything at all with such a text involves a certain amount of risk-taking. To turn a text into verse involves, inevitably, changing the text, so as to fit in with the meter chosen and the rhyme system adopted. I have tried to keep as close as possible to the text, looking at the modern as well as the King James versions, and in some cases taking the Italian translation (one modern, one “old”) as basis. I have not consulted the original Greek, as my school Greek (which was anyhow classical and not New Testament Greek) has mostly evaporated from my brain with the long passage of time. At times I have added things that I thought the actors in the dramas described might have said or done, always trying to stay consistent with the text from which I was working. Such “additions” I have been obliged to make, in order to keep to the rules of prosody that I had adopted.**

**Since the meters I have used are from classical times, I thought it would be useful to give a brief description of them, followed by suggestions as to how the suggested text should be read aloud so as to have maximum effect.**

**I shall start with some definitions:**

- (1) A foot, or metrical foot, describes the unit or units out of which the metrical structure is put together. The use of the word foot to describe a sequence of syllables comes from classical times when poetry, music and dance were considered to be practically one and the same discipline!**
- (2) Spondee. This is a foot consisting of two long or two stressed syllables**
- (3) Trochee. This is a foot consisting of one long and one short, or of one stressed and one unstressed syllables.**
- (4) Dactyl. This consists of one long and two short, or of one stressed and two unstressed syllables.**
- (5) Anapest. This consists of two short and one long or of two unstressed and one stressed syllables. This is the reversal of a dactyl.**
- (6) Elongated anapest. This consists of two short and two long or of two unstressed and two stressed syllables. I have only found examples of this foot in Hungarian poetry.**
- (7) Tetrameter. This is a line consisting of four feet. These will always be anapests in what follows, sometimes the normal anapests, sometimes the elongated ones. In some cases I have mixed the two kinds!**
- (8) Hexameter. This is a line consisting of six feet. The first four can be dactyls or spondees, the fifth one must be a dactyl, the sixth one can be either a spondee or a trochee. In my hexameters I have tried to keep the first five feet always as dactyls, thus making the text flow better.**

Here are some examples of tetrameters from the text. Here is one with four elongated anapests, unstressed being denoted by the symbol “v” and stressed by the symbol “→” :

/ v v → → / v v → → / v v → → / v v → → /  
But they knew no rules for building, so the towers started tilting

Here is a tetrameter with four normal anapests:

/ v v → / v v → / v v → / v v → /  
Then at twelve of the clock the whole sky went all dark

Here is an example of a hexameter with five dactyls and a trochee:

→ v v → v v → v v → v v → v v → v  
Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem went for to follow these orders

It is of course easy to exaggerate the scanning of the metric. This would make the reading artificial rather than flowing. A good compromise can be found between reading the text as prose, or putting a little scanning into the reading, but without spoiling the meaningful unfolding of what the text is trying to convey.

It is quite possible that stories of a heroic nature, as were told in classical times, were still current at the time Jesus was alive. These stories would be told in classical meters, possibly as they were easier to remember when told in this way. So quite possibly Jesus, maybe as a child, might have heard stories told to him by the adults who cared for Him, in the very meters I have used for conveying the messages contained in the Gospel of Luke. So it might not be such an “outlandish” thing to do, to put a Gospel in such classical verse form!

Zoltan P. Dienes  
Wolfville, NS Canada  
July, 2002

# Luke 1.

/v v → → //v v → → //v v → → //v v → → /  
(Rhythm pattern: four elongated anapests)

The good life of Zacharias with amazement it can fire us;  
Zacharias, he was married, but his wife no children carried,  
It's for children he had wed her, being barren wasn't proper,  
Notwithstanding he did love her, never craving any other!

Being priest for the All Mighty, he did sacrifices nightly,  
During one such ministration came an angel to his station  
Thus declaimed the holy angel: "Your whole life now, it so change will!  
Your dear wife will bear a baby, God's ordained that this His way'll be!"

"You will call him by the name John, he'll be called to be a great one!  
He will bring to great Jehova many faithful the world over!"  
But our priest was not believing, in his heart afraid and grieving.  
"I am old! My wife is also! Can it be that it'll be so?"

"I am Gabriel down from Heaven, bringing news of this new leaven,  
But because you weren't believing, now your speech, it will be leaving  
Right until is born the baby, your restored speech on that day be!"  
When he came down from the altar, there was no-one he could call to!

He was mute at Gabriel's bidding, his lips sealed, he wasn't kidding!  
But their baby started growing and the days passed all a-glowing;  
But the wife, she stayed secluded, for five months no-one intruded  
While she prayed and thanked the Lord, whom she fervently adored!

Gabriel's job, it wasn't done yet, there was more concerning Man's debt!  
God was sending Man a saviour, oh! His task could not be heavier!  
Gabriel went to Virgin Mary (to young Mary this was scary!),  
"You will soon conceive a child and become a mother mild!"

Mary said: "This cannot be, since no man has been with me!"  
But the angel then declared: "Holy Ghost will be your laird!  
Overshadowed by the Spirit, thus your child you will conceive it.  
He will be the Son of God, Mankind's blessing, not its rod!"

"My trip has a second reason: tell that pregnant is your cousin  
All her years this notwithstanding; you must pray for understanding!  
In his sixth month baby's growing, by God's Will events are flowing.  
See? With God all things can happen, so your hopes must never dampen!"

**She addressed the angel holy: "I'm my God's true servant solely!  
Let it be as God's ordain-ed, and forever I'll be blessed!"  
As good Mary was so worried, to Elisabeth she journeyed  
Who was living in Judea with her husband who had wooed her.**

**Mary her dear cousin greeted, cousin's baby was elated!  
In the womb he started bouncing, thus his happiness announcing!  
She was filled with Holy Spirit so that she could hardly bear it.  
Thus she spoke to Virgin Mary, but with words being so wary:**

**"In your womb the creature sacred makes you 'mongst all women blessed.  
How the Lord of all creation comes into my lowly station?  
When you gave me your first greeting, then my baby started leaping  
For the joy that God is near, and he knew he'd never fear!"**

**To Elisabeth said Mary in a humble way but clearly:  
"Let my God be much exalted, and His worship never faulted!  
To his low and humble bond-slave, here's the gift that He to me gave!"  
With her hands placed on her belly, so she knew the world would rally!.**

**Good Elisabeth was steady and for birthing she was ready  
She gave birth to one so healthy which in spirit made them wealthy,  
On the day of circumcision, naming was a big decision,  
What the angel said was John, this command she carried on.**

**Neighbours said to Zacharias, there is no John here among us!  
He replied on tablet writing: Our John will the world be lighting!  
Lo! His speech was then restored, for this gift, he praised the Lord,  
Leaving people so astonished since his failing had thus vanished!**

**But the people started fearing as this child through God appearing  
May be bound for fate sinister, with no brother nor a sister.  
But his father waxed prophetic without growing analytic :  
"He'll prepare us for Salvation, whether high or lower station!"**

**What his role was he did know it as he grew so strong in Spirit.  
So he lived in lonely places, never dreaming of embraces,  
He would feed on simple locust while on things divine he focussed  
Till he was ready to meet us , and prepare us for Lord Jesus.**

## Luke 2.

Rhythm pattern (→ v v/→ v v/→ v v/→ v v/→ v v/ → v)  
(Hexameter)

Caesar Augustus had ordered the count of all THOSE subjugated,  
(Ruling the World, he must never seem weak or appear underrated!)  
So all his subjects were ordered to go to their ancestral place  
Where they all registered so that the counting could go on apace!

Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem went for to follow these orders,  
AS they came FROM Galilee they crossed many municipal borders!  
Mary was heavy with child and the journey she found very tiring  
(Knowing who was in her womb, with much courage her heart it was firing!)

When Bethlehem they had reached, for the birth of her child she was ready,  
(Soon for to see the Divine Baby Boy made her soul feel quite heady!)  
BUT there was NO place in Bethlehem where the two could have found shelter!  
(HOW was it THAT the Lord GOD such a trial so HARD He had dealt her?)

They had to BE satisfied with a stable containing a manger,  
Which an innkeeper had offered them AS he saw Mary in danger!  
When the divine babe was BORN, in the manger young Mary did place Him,  
Joseph and Mary gave thanks to the LORD and with worship did grace Him!

Then all the while that this drama unfolded in one humble dwelling,  
Shepherds were guarding their flocks in the fields and their stories were telling,  
When all at once the whole sky was lit up and some angels were singing:  
“Glory to God in the highest who peace to all men is now bringing!”

Shepherds were sorely afraid at the sight of divine revelation,  
But then the angels they ended their speech with this simple oration:  
“We bring you news of the birth of a Saviour in King David’s city,  
He is the Christ and for you not to see Him would be a great pity!

This Holy Child you will find in a stable’s small manger down yonder  
Go and bear witness right now in your town to the world’s greatest wonder!”  
Shepherds were greatly impressed by that WHICH the good angels commanded,  
So they set off as the order they’d heard their obedience demanded.

Soon the small babe they had found as the angels correctly directed  
And told His parents through contact with angels how they were instructed!  
Then the good shepherds and Mary and Joseph all worshipped young Jesus  
As many do to this day giving thanks for His action to free us!

**When the time came for presenting their baby to God up above,  
They took along with them for sacrificing just one snow-white dove.  
Simon, their friend, had been promised by God that he'd see the Messiah  
Ere he would die, as God KNEW that this WAS his most fervent desire!**

**AS Joseph AND Mary brought Jesus into the temple's deep sanctum  
Simon, he felt that he needed to come for he wanted to thank them  
For bringing Jesus whom he recognized as the one true Messiah  
So he thanked God for this babe as the seat of great heavenly fire!**

**He took the babe in his arms and declaimed in a thunderous fashion:  
"Thank you My Lord for the sight of this child I expected with passion!  
You can allow that your servant depart from these regions in peace  
Lauding you for your great kindness for ever I WILL never cease!"**

**To Nazareth they returned when they'd done their prescribed holy duty  
Where Jesus grew in much wisdom and strength and a great deal of beauty.  
During these years he became well aware of His Father in Heaven  
Though he learned carpentry FROM Joseph MOST days excepting Day Seven!**

**One day they went to Jerusalem for the great feast of Passover  
Where they took part in the rituals till the great feasting was over.  
On the way home they did soon realize that young Jesus was missing!  
Where can he be? Perhaps lost on the way or he could be just resting?**

**Joseph and Mary went back to the temple of their celebration  
Looking for Jesus as they trudged right back and so full of frustration!  
Finally in the great temple they found him with high priests debating  
Who were amazed how the Torah he knew and could not underrate Him!**

**When Mary saw Jesus in the great temple she started to chide:  
" How can you leave us and worry us and in this great temple thus hide?"  
Jesus replied: "Did you NOT know I MUST be in MY father's house?"  
Mary then realized that all her worry was merely a grouse!**

**They left the temple together and wended their way towards home,  
Life for a while was quite peaceful and Jesus was n'er out alone,  
He stayed with Mary and Joseph and learned more of Joseph's good trade,  
Growing apace in his family FOR whom his love did not fade!**



## **Luke 3.**

(Hexameter)

**After fifteen years of reign by the Emperor Caesar Tiberius  
When in Judea he'd placed as the Governor Pontius Pilatus,  
John, the son OF Zacharias received his command to be serving  
TO spread abroad a repentance for all for their souls to be stirring.**

**He went about in the region of Jordan to preach such repentance  
And all the while he baptized all who came as a symbol of entrance  
Into new life through forgiveness by God for the sins they abandon  
While he described in the clearest of words the new World they must land on!**

**"I am the one who will cry in the wild as foretold by Isaiah,  
Thus we together prepare for the Lord, which is my strong desire!  
Tortuous paths will be made to be straight to prepare for the Lord,  
Glens will be filled and the hills levelled down for to show our accord"**

**As he came down to the Jordan to baptize the crowd he would say:  
"You, race of vipers! The wrath from above you do naught to allay!"  
Anxiously people then asked him: "So what can we do to be saved?"  
Then he replied pointing up to the sky with his hands and he waved:**

**"You have two shirts and your friend he has none, so you give him what's lacking!  
If you have food and your friend is so hungry, with pangs he is aching,  
Share what you have with him AND so conTENT you can BOTH be together;  
You are both made by your God and your friend is therefore your own brother!"**

**People then started to ask him if he was the Christ, the Messiah?  
So John replied, with a tone in his voice that betrayed righteous ire:  
"You I baptize with the water that runs in this great holy river,  
But understand that the one after me is a much greater giver!"**

**"He is much stronger than I, mark you: He will baptize you with fire!  
He'll give you God's Holy Spirit, since He is the coming Messiah!  
I am not worthy to undo the laces of sandals he's wearing,  
He is from God and so even to touch Him it would be too daring!"**

**Jesus himself he came TO be baptized in the big flowing river,  
Baptizing Jesus made John so unsure that his body did quiver!  
As Jesus prayed, so the skies opened up and God's voice could be heard:  
"Son! I'm well pleased and I send you the Spirit concealed in this bird!"**

**From skies thus opened this bird did fly down in the shape of a dove,  
Bringing the Spirit, thus ushering in the new season of love!  
Jesus' s ministry started henceforth as the Spirit was with Him.  
Father and Spirit as One in the Son, were now ready to guide Him**

## Luke 4.

/v v → →/v v → →/v v → →/v v → →/  
or  
/v v → →/v v →/v v → →/v v →/

He was filled with Holy Spirit and his soul brimmed over with it.  
To the desert he descended where with God His prayer blended.  
Forty days He went on fasting, moral strength this gave was lasting,  
Ready now for Satan's tempting, which the Devil was attempting!

Satan saw Jesus was hungry, so he tried not to be angry,  
In suave voice thus he said: "Turn these rocks into your bread!"  
"Man lives not by bread alone!", said He in a serious tone,  
"Man lives by the Word of God, his best path he's ever trod!"

Satan took him to a summit, whence the whole world He could see it:  
"All this land is in my power, every tree and every flower,  
It is mine to give away, TO who'll play the game my way!  
You bow down and worship me, all is yours that you can see!"

"Satan! Get thee well behind me! I will not have dealings with thee!  
Worship's due to our God only, and transgressors shall be lonely!"  
To Jerusalem Satan brought Him ("One more try, and I'll have caught Him!")  
To the roof of the Great Temple, where his trick would be quite simple:

Satan said in voice so tempting (failure thus he'd be pre-empting!):  
"Leap you now from this great height, so to show your real might!  
Then just call your angels many, it will cost you not a penny!  
They would bear you safely down, never hurting limb or gown!"

Jesus would not thus be tempted by the trick Satan attempted.  
He to Satan thus replied: "Wicked paths are those you've plied!  
It is written that it's best not to put God to the test!"  
At this point Satan departed and for Jesus new days started.

Galilee, where He went next, was where He read from the Text  
And His wisdom was admired, serving all He never tired!  
Soon his foot he meant to set, on his native Nazareth  
Teaching in His synagogue, added to His service log!

One such day it was his deed, from the Torah thus to read:  
"Lord God's Spirit is with me, to the poor He's sending me  
For to teach them how to live, as the Law instructions give!  
Prison doors shall open wide, tears of blind men shall be dried

As those blind will get to see, the oppressed shall be set free!  
All shall sing in one accord: it's the year of the good Lord!"  
He then closed the holy Book, as His seat he gently took.  
Then in loud voice he declaimed: "These few words at me were aimed"

"Prophecy contained herein, is fulfilled now here within!"  
All did marvel at His words, even silencing the birds!  
"Is this not just Joseph's son?" Said who had to speak begun  
Jesus saw they had some doubt, so he fired one more bout:

"Many prophets sorely tested, in their home town aren't accepted!"  
And He cited from the scriptures many cases for His strictures.  
This much angered all His hearers who would be His coffin bearers,  
So they chased Him to the hilltop with a cliff and very big drop

Thus to kill Him was their motive, how did He dare Scripture quote if  
He was just a humble worker, even so perhaps a shirker!  
It was not yet time to suffer, so with people as His buffer,  
He went through the crowd so angry, who for blood had been so hungry

Jesus went to Capernaum, where his home town was not known,  
On the Sabbath he would teach, thus so many He could reach!  
One possessed by demons entered, near to Jesus he had ventured,  
But the demons know that Jesus has a way in which He sees us!

So one demon started shouting, thinking danger he was routing:  
"We do know you are from Heaven, when you come here on Day Seven!  
Have you come for our destruction? Is that your divine instruction?"  
Jesus answered very quickly for to help this man so sickly:

"I command you to be quiet, you must not make such a riot!  
You must now leave this good person, it's the end for you, it's certain!"  
Jesus had him well assessed, as he left the man possessed,  
He did writhe some on the floor, then he stood still by the door!

Then the crowd stood still in wonder at this act to tear asunder  
One bad demon from a man, they knew not how it began!  
But the news spread far and wide of the deeds that Jesus tried.  
Who is it that thus can do this? A man holy, that He is!

Then He entered Simon's dwelling, who with sorrow was so welling  
Since the mother of his wife was in danger of her life!  
She had fever very high, so since Jesus was right by  
He did ask him for a healing, begging Him with all his being!

**Jesus then said to the fever: “Go away now, you must leave her!”  
And the fever then did leave, so they could not disbelieve!  
There were others who were ailing, so that Jesus, not delaying,  
Laid his hands on for a cure, all were healed thus, to be sure!**

**Others came demon-possessed, with their problem Jesus pressed,  
Who then freed them from their anguish, so no more they had to languish.  
He then found some desert place, as he needed peace and grace  
And He prayed to God above, who would guide His work of love.**

## **Luke 5.**

(hexameter)

**Once on the shores of a lake He was trying to preach to the people  
But there was such a big crowd, He to find room to stand wasn't able.  
Two empty boats then He saw where the fishers their nets they were washing,  
Jesus decided to board one of these as on rocks it was crashing**

**Simon, who owned one small boat, from the shore a short distance he pushed it.  
Jesus sat down in this boat and He spoke to the crowd with much spirit.  
After the end of this teaching He asked Simon: "Take us out seaward!,  
Then throw your nets in the water as you take your boat further outward!"**

**"Master! We laboured all night but our nets never took any fishes!  
We were beginning to think that our supper would be empty dishes!  
But if you say we should fish, I will lower the nets in the water.  
You are the Chief! So whatever you say we shall do as we ought to!"**

**They did as Jesus had said and the nets were filled up in a minute,  
They needed help for to haul in the catch, there was so much weight in it!  
Ere they had finished both boats were quite full, with the weight almost sinking,  
How all this happened through power from Jesus they could have no inkling!**

**Simon then threw himself at Jesus' feet, saying he was a sinner,  
While Jesus could simply say to the fish: "You shall now be my dinner!"  
As Simon's friends were astounded as well at this turn of events,  
Jesus said: "I'll make you fishers of men if you come with me hence!"**

**Simon and all of his friends then pulled in their two boats up the shore,  
And they decided to follow this Jesus, who'd knocked on their door!  
Simon was also called Peter for Jesus to use as a rock,  
Even though he would deny Him three times ere the crow of the cock!**

**While Jesus walked in a town with His friends He met with a poor leper  
Who threw himself on the floor crying: "Jesus! Will YOU make me better?"  
Jesus just touched him and said: "That I will" and all leprosy vanished  
Then He said: "Do not tell anyone how I your leprosy banished"**

**"But show yourself to the priest in the temple for purification,  
As is prescribed by the great law of Moses: perform your ablution!"  
Nevertheless the good news of His teaching and healing spread widely  
Many were healed as His fame spread abroad as so holy and kindly.**

**Some Pharisees and some doctors of law had arrived for to hear Him,  
They were so many that friends of the sick could not GET even near Him.  
In the small house where he spoke there was hardly a place for to sit  
How could the sick thus approach Jesus? How could they get to be fit?**

**There was a poor paralytic whose friends truly wanted him healed;  
But when they saw all the crowd in the house and the entrance quite sealed  
Hoisted their friend with his bed on the roof and took off a few tiles,  
Then lowered HIM in the crowd where stood Jesus now beaming with smiles.**

**Jesus then told him his sins were forgiven because of his faith,  
Which the good doctors there present were thinking was quite a disgrace!  
It's only God who forgives Man his sins, is He not then blaspheming?  
Quietly thus they discussed whether blasphemy they should be deeming?**

**But Jesus knew what went on in their hearts, so He said to them plainly:  
"You must decide then which one of these two is an order ungainly:  
Your sins forgiven or fold up your bed and arise and so live?  
Now you shall know that the Son of Man here has the right to forgive"**

**Jesus then said to the man who was sick: "I command you, arise!  
Pick up your bed so go home and don't sin and do try to be wise!"  
At this the sick man arose and walked home glorifying the Lord,  
All those who witnessed admired this Jesus with single accord.**

**Levi was one person chosen by Rome for to gather the taxes  
(Doing this not very honestly sometimes their income he axes!).  
Once he was doing this job by his house just when Jesus was passing,  
"Follow me!", Jesus said "and you will surely have peace ever-lasting!"**

**Levi then left all his work and decided good Jesus to follow,  
And in his house he prepared a great feast with no thought of the morrow!  
Other tax gatherers and many others thus dined at his table  
Jesus and all his disciples did eat with him all they were able!**

**Some Pharisees and the scribes they then started this matter debating  
"Why do they have so much food and much wine?", they the guests were berating.  
Then they addressed Jesus thus, asking: "Why do you eat with these sinners?"  
"Doctors must treat all the sick not the healthy, so they can be winners!"**

**Jesus thus had to explain that He'd come for to save all the sinners  
He could then teach them the ways of the Lord during time of their dinners!  
Some people wondered the reason why all John's disciples were fasting,  
While Jesus' friends ate and drank, could this be Will of God everlasting?**

**Jesus would often use telling of tales for to reach understanding,  
So then He offered this story for those who around Him were standing:  
“Would anyone use a piece of new cloth for repairing an old one?  
Such diff’rent kind of material WOULD not be fit to be sewn on!”**

**“No-one will pour the new wine in a used and quite old kind of wineskin,  
As the new wine would undo all the stitches in one such a goatskin.  
Wine would spill out and the skin would be lost as there would be no balance,  
Into new skins will the new wine be poured for the keeping of fragrance!”**



## Luke 6.

(Anapestic tetrameter)

Jesus with the friends he'd chosen passed a field where wheat was growing;  
Heads of grain they rubbed together, to allay their growing hunger.  
On the Sabbath this did happen, on the shore the waves were lapping;  
They knew not this was unlawful, and they'd gathered quite a baleful.

There were some strict Pharisees there, who did ask them: "Have you no fear?  
What you're doing is forbidden, and your sins cannot be hidden!"  
Jesus answered quoting Scripture, treating them to this brief lecture:  
"Good King David consecrated bread he ate till satiated,

To his friends he also gave it, though for priests he should have saved it!  
By the Law this bread could only be consumed by priests so holy!  
If King David you accept, I can do what I elect!  
Son of man, decreed by Heaven, is the Lord of this Day Seven!"

On another Sabbath day, He was teaching them the Way  
When he saw amidst his band, one sick man with withered hand.  
All the scribes and Pharisees, hoped to see what them would please:  
On the Sabbath would He heal? Trip Him up would be a deal!

Jesus knew what they were feeling, looking AT the sick man kneeling.  
"Do come forward!", he commanded, and the man did as demanded.  
He then asked the learned scribes: "Is it lawful to save lives?  
On the Sabbath can we cure? Or some harm must we endure?"

To the sick man then He said: "To be whole now you'll be led!  
I command you: stretch your hand, show it to this doubting band!"  
The sick man did as requested, from his illness was sequestered  
Now his hand had been made whole, through good Jesus' caring role!

Some of them who saw this healing, only fear was in their feeling,  
They did mean to harm this Jesus, at his powers they were furious!  
Jesus left for desert places, so from God to gain some graces,  
He did pray there all night long, till his heart became more strong!

In the morning, no time losing, twelve apostles He'd be choosing  
There was Simon he called Peter, as He named him some time later,  
Then came Andrew, His own brother, choosing John He looked no further,  
Then came James and also Philip, with Bartholomew add to it,

**He chose Mathew and then Thomas, also James, son of Alphaeus,  
He took Simon, called a Zealot, also Judas called Iscariot  
Then came Judas, son of James, thus completing all the names!  
These were then His trusted friends, they would help to spread new trends!**

**With the twelve he'd thus appointed, He stood there by God anointed,  
Making whole those who were ill, doing thus His Father's will.  
Crowds of people then assembled, for to hear Him they all trembled,  
He stood up amongst the crowd, thus declaiming strong and loud:**

**“Blessed are you if you're poor, God's own Kingdom's at your door!  
Blessed are you if you hunger, you'll be filled and you'll be stronger!  
Blessed are you if you weep, since your patience if you keep  
You'll enjoy more days of laughter, in this life and the hereafter!**

**Blessed are you if you're hated, or insulted or berated,  
If you're named as doing evil just for loving all the people  
As taught by the Son of man (who was here ere you began!)  
Suff'ring for Him leap for joy, in your witness don't be coy!**

**Great will be your recompense when you've left your earthly tents,  
This did happen to the prophets, who endured so many buffets,  
Their reward is up in Heaven for the sowing of their leaven,  
Be you steadfast! Follow me! Do so for all men to see!**

**Woe to you if you have plenty, for tomorrow you'll be empty!  
You'll have had your recompense, you'll have naught when you go hence!  
Woe to you if you're well fed, for the morrow' ll bring no bread,  
Woe to you if full of laughter, you shall weep in your hereafter!**

**To your foes you must be good, love them and give them your food!  
Answer cursing with a blessing, to ill-treaters prayers addressing;  
If one hits you on one cheek, I suggest that you be meek  
Offer him the other cheek, so his love you could thus seek!**

**Were a thief to steal your coat, whether leopard-skin or goat,  
Give him also your best shirt, him to virtue you'll alert!  
If a person wants what's yours, do not think about the laws,  
Give him all that he does want, you'll have drunk from virtue's font!**

**Other people should be treated as yourself wish to be greeted;  
If you love those who do love you, there's no credit in your venue,  
It is done also by sinners, treating friends to lavish dinners!  
Good is done even by sinners, it's through payback they are winners!**

**If to someone you are lending and this message with it sending:  
I can lend but I request the appropriate interest!  
Thus expecting a return, moral credit you don't earn;  
Even sinners do such lending, so they more then can be spending!**

**You must love your enemies, whatever your quarrel is,  
You can lend, if it's your turn, but don't ask for a return!  
Your good acts to Heaven cry, you'll be sons of God on High!  
Show your mercy to your neighbour, as for Heaven you do labour!**

**If you wish not to be judged and by judgement to be crushed,  
Do not judge your fellow being, but treat him with loving feeling!  
Do try never to condemn, rather show you're loving them!  
Pardon those who do you ill, then your pardon is God's will!**

**If you give more, you'll receive more, there's good measure in your God's store!  
Heaven's measure is abundant, any sparing is redundant!  
Your reward drops in your lap, from your God's eternal tap!  
You'll have riches, do not fear, if to follow you will dare!"**

**He went on with simple stories, to describe God's hidden glories:  
"Can two blind men guide each other, surely it would be a bother!  
Each would rather stay and sit, or they might fall in the pit!  
Think about what I am saying! Are you hearing? Are you seeing?"**

**"Which is higher, taught or teacher?" was one question by the preacher,  
"When the pupil in one session, grasps the teaching of the lesson,  
Then the two, they will be equal, which should be the normal sequel!  
Think about what I am saying! Are you hearing? Are you seeing?"**

**"In my brother's eye there IS one little speck which I must work on.  
But I am yet not aware of the beam my own eyes bear.  
Now you've told me of my beam, so my good sight I'll redeem,  
Then I CAN help with your small speck and it's all clear on our life's deck!"**

**"If a tree is not a good one, no good fruit that it can grow on,  
If a tree is a good tree, no bad fruit on it will be!  
Every tree it is best known, by that which on it has grown,  
No figs grow amongst the thorn nor do grapes on briar born.**

**For a good man it's a pleasure, to bring forth the good as treasure,  
But the bad man's treasure's bad, he spreads evil, which is sad!  
You address me Lord! Oh Lord! But you don't follow my word!  
Those who act upon my word, I will show you what they're worth.**

**For a house you need foundation, if you wish to have a station  
Which stands up to stormy weather, you don't just remove the heather  
But dig down to solid rock into which your walls can lock  
If you build your house on sand, it will not lock in the land.**

**When the storm comes with a flood, he who worked and sweated blood  
Will then see his house preserved, as the future he'd well served!  
But the house that's built on sand, it will BE swept off the land,  
And there'll be much trepidation for the loss of such creation!"**

## **Luke 7.**

**(Hexameter)**

**After these heavy discourses He went to a certain large town  
Where there were numerous soldiers from Rome: it was called Capernaum.  
One of the soldiers had one favoured slave who was ill and near dying,  
All other slaves also feared for his life and were openly crying!**

**When he heard Jesus was near, he sent some older Jews to beseech Him  
TO come and heal his good slave, so he hoped they'd be able to reach Him.  
These Jews did find Jesus and they informed Him about this good slave,  
Telling Him how this centurion behaved as a man very brave!**

**Jesus then took the direction of where this centurion was living  
As He decided to this healing task now his blessing was giving.  
But the centurion had asked some good friends to be meeting with Jesus  
Who told Him: "We are not worthy for You to come over and see us!"**

**Just say one word and my slave will be healed having had your attention!  
I do command to all those under me who obey without question  
If I say GO they will go or if COME they will come in obedience  
All that I tell to my slave he must do he'll do SINCE there's no lenience!"**

**You, at the top of the chain of command, must demand full compliance!  
All that you say must indeed be fulfilled as in any alliance!"  
Jesus was greatly impressed by this soldier who was fully trusting,  
He was so ready to do for his slave, whatever it's costing!**

**Jesus then said : "I admire his faith, he had not much to go on!  
"Such a great faith Israel has not seen, though this man is a pagan!"  
When the centurion's friends reached the house where this soldier was living  
They found the slave had been healed which to all such great joy it was giving!**

**Then Jesus started to walk with His friends to the city of Nain;  
When they arrived at the gates they were met with a very sad sign:  
It was the funeral OF a young boy who was son of a widow,  
Many sad mourners accompanied THEM and some waved from their window.**

**When Jesus saw this sad widow, He instantly pitied her, saying:  
"Cry not!" and touched the hearse THAT between pall-bearers slowly was swinging,  
All the pall-bearers then came to a stop and then Jesus said loudly:  
"Boy! I do tell you, arise from this hearse and then look at me proudly!"**

**Lo and behold that the dead boy arose and he started to speak,  
So Jesus gave back the boy to his mother for her thus to keep!  
Mourners were then filled with fear at the exercise of such great power,  
Feeling the power of Jesus who could with such wonder endow her.**

**Now two disciples of young John the Baptist then heard of these deeds,  
Which they recounted to John who was still living 'mongst the wild reeds.  
John sent a group of disciples to Jesus for asking this question:  
“Are you the one that the most worthy prophet Isaiah did mention?”**

**“Or do we have to expect yet another who'll fill the prediction?”  
So the ambassadors sent by the Baptist did ask this one question.  
During these times Jesus did for the people a great many healings,  
Demonized persons were freed, so restoring their own proper feelings,**

**Many a blind man his sight did receive and the lame they were walking,  
So his reply was succinct and concise as he thus started talking:  
“You must tell John what you've seen and you've heard of the work I am doing,  
Men who were blind can now see and the lame as you see are now walking,**

**Men who were deaf can now hear and the lepers are made whole again,  
Those who were dead now arise and the poor have the Gospel to gain!  
Blessed are those who do NOT fall away for accepting my Way!”  
Being told this, John's disciples did leave having learned what to say.**

**Jesus then started to speak about John to the people around:  
“In the wild desert what DO you look at, is it reeds in the ground  
That are bent by the wind or is there something else that you fervently seek?  
Or do you look for a man who can be both ferocious and meek?”**

**“He whom you seek will be dressed in soft cloth, eating locust for dinner,  
He's a great prophet who can teach you much even if you're a sinner!  
I say to you he is more than a prophet, as thus it is written:  
I send my messenger as preparation for you, it is bidden.**

**I say to you that of those born of women there is no-one greater,  
Yet in God's Kingdom to come as events will evolve somewhat later  
Then of those saved just the least will be greater than he, though a great one!”  
Most of his hearers did think what he'd said was for them to rely on**

**Some Pharisees and the lawyers however rejected God's purpose,  
As they had not been baptized so they weren't ready TO follow Jesus!  
Jesus then spoke to them thus: “What can I say of this generation?  
They are like children who sit in the market and speak in frustration:**

**We played the flute but no dance would you do in response!  
We sang a dirge but your weeping you did then ensconce!  
John eats no bread and he drinks not the wine and you say he's with demon,  
This Son of Man don't you see eats and drinks, with full table to lean on!**

**Drunkard you say that He is and a glutton for sharing a feast!  
Friend of tax-gatherers! But I say, YOU know him NOT in the least!"  
And indeed one Pharisee did invite Him to dine at his palace,  
Jesus accepted and ate at his table and drank from his chalice.**

**Lo and behold that there was a bad woman who lived not too far.  
When she had heard that Lord Jesus was guest at the Pharisee's bar,  
She then decided to come there at once with a vial of scent,  
Standing behind Jesus close to his feet to much weeping was bent.**

**She started washing the feet of Lord Jesus with fast flowing tears,  
Wiping the tears with her hair, but of Jesus was feeling no fears.  
She kissed His feet, which with scent she anointed that she had procured  
Fervently hoping that through humble service her ills could be cured.**

**This Pharisee who had asked Him to dine did not like what he saw,  
He thought if this man's a prophet, he'd know that she kept not the Law!  
He'd surely know that the woman who'd touched Him was truly a sinner  
And He would not let her near Him while eating His sumptuous dinner!**

**But Jesus knew of the Pharisee's thoughts so He thus did address Him:  
"I have a story to tell", in a tone to make sure not to press him,  
"Teacher! You say what you will as I am very anxious to hear you,  
It's not so often that people can speak with you AND be so near you!"**

**"One money-lender had one debtor who owed him five hundred dinars  
And he had one who did owe him just fifty. He called them to HIS house  
There he did tell them their debts were forgiven, there WAS naught to pay,  
Which of these two would then love him the more on this THEIR happy day?"**

**Our Pharisee did opine that it must be the one who owed more.  
Jesus agreed and He said there was one little lesson in store.  
Then he would look at the woman who 'd wept and He started explaining:  
"When I did enter your house you did not give me water for washing**

**This woman here, she did moisten my feet with her tears overflowing  
Then with her hair she did wipe both my feet, so much care she was showing!  
You gave me not any kiss, but she's kissed both my feet without ceasing,  
You gave me not any oil but she WITH perfumed scent me was pleasing!**

**I say to you that her sins, which are many, have now been forgiven  
For she loved much, clearly so to be healed she had so greatly striven  
He who's forgiven a little, a little he therefore will love!  
Love and forgiveness they both go together just as up above!"**

**Those who were there at the table with Him they were very surprised  
How can it be that this man can declare that your sins have demised?  
Jesus then said to this woman of tears "Now your sins are forgiven,  
Go now in peace, do not sin any more, for this power you're given!"**



## **Luke 8.**

(hexameter)

**Jesus was going from village to village for preaching the Kingdom,  
Telling them that His new ways much improvement in life they would bring them.  
Great multitudes had assembled to hear the good things he would say,  
So he decided to speak in a parable showing the Way:**

**“Farmers went out one Spring morn for the scattering of the new seed,  
Some seeds did fall by the side of the road and were trampled indeed!  
Then some birds came and they picked what was left on the road lying by  
Other seeds fell on the rocks, which without any moisture would die.**

**Yet other seeds they had fallen among a big patch of wild thorn,  
Thorns therefore choked the young shoots so that THEY could not grow into corn!  
But there were seeds that fell into good soil, which then grew and matured,  
If you have ears that can hear, understanding of this is assured!”**

**But His disciples were not very sure of the parable’s meaning.  
So Jesus started explaining the tale so they clues could be gleaning:  
“You, my disciples, are granted to know what indeed is mysterious,  
For other seekers the parables ARE better so they can query us”**

**“This is the meaning: the seeds are the words of your Lord God above,  
Seeds by the roadside are those who have heard but do not feel the Love  
Which is the Spirit, because the great Evil One takes it away  
So they can NOT then believe the good words so that THEY go astray!**

**Seeds on the rocks stand for those who believe but have no firm foundation,  
They do believe for a while but they do fall away to temptation.”  
Jesus thus tries to explain what the words in the parable mean  
So they would truthfully hear what they’d heard also see what they’d seen!**

**“Seeds that have fallen among all the thorns are the ones who have heard  
But are preoccupied with worldly cares and they think it absurd  
TO concentrate on what’s GOOD and what’s BAD, thus neglecting their pleasures!  
These will prefer to amass worldly riches, not heavenly treasures!**

**Seeds in good soil are referring to those who have heard with their heart  
And persevered in accepting the words for a new life to start!  
If you have lighted your lamp, you will not cover IT with a cup  
Or put it under the bed, it is best on a stand further up!**

**Nothing is hidden that won't become evident with the time passing,  
Nor any secret that won't come to light, since time IS everlasting!  
Be sure you listen with care: If you HAVE, you'll be given much more!  
If you have NOT, then the little you have will go out through the door!"**

**Jesus' s mother and some of His brothers were trying to see Him,  
But there was such a big crowd, so they COULD not succeed there to reach Him!  
When He was told that His mother and brothers were waiting outside,  
And they could not struggle through all the crowd, to them THUS then He cried:**

**"My mother and my true brothers are those who do follow God's word!  
Once they the message of God in the words I declaim they have heard!"  
Soon after this the disciples and Jesus went down to the shore  
Boarding a boat as He wanted to rest and not speak any more.**

**He only said: "Let us go in this boat to the lake's other shore!"  
Sails were then set for to cross the big lake which they'd done oft before!  
Jesus was tired so He LAY down to sleep while His friends did the sailing,  
But a big storm then blew up and the STRONG winds were blowing and wailing!**

**Soon their small boat it began to be swamped and they were in great danger!  
They woke up Jesus who calmly did say: "You'll soon see something stranger!"  
"You! The strong winds also you the big waves! You must cease, I command you!"  
Now, can you see? There is quiet and peace in the waters around you?"**

**He said to THEM: "Where's your faith?"  
but His strength it had made them more nervous!  
"Who is this man who can still such a storm, can this be the Man Jesus?"  
"Water and winds all obey Him so over them He is the Master!  
While we can row all we can yet the boat will not go any faster!"**

**They disembarked on the lake's farther shore where a man came to meet them,  
He was all naked, possessed by some demons, and thus he did greet them:  
"Jesus the Son of Most High I beseech you now, do not torment me!"  
Jesus said: "Yes, you are right! To defeat you my Father has sent me!"**

**"What is your name?" Jesus asked, "It is legion!" the demon replied.  
Many were THOSE spirits who to possess this poor man they had tried!  
There was a herd of some swine feeding there on the slopes of the hill  
Demons demanded of Jesus if this herd of swine they could fill.**

**Jesus then gave His permission, the demons then left the possessed,  
Each demon entered a swine, as their number they'd rightly assessed  
All the herd then did run down the steep slope and splashed into the water  
Where they all drowned because they could not swim, leaving empty their quarter.**

**When the news spread of this strangest event many people came round  
They found the man who'd had demons all healthy who sat on a mound  
With all his clothes on at Jesus 's feet with his mind as before,  
They were afraid so entreated Lord Jesus to depart from their door.**

**He who'd had demons, he wanted to come for to follow Lord Jesus,  
But Jesus told him that by going home he could do things more serious!  
He must recount to them how he was saved from the demons' tormenting  
So he went home and did tell of his cure while his sins was repenting!**

**One synagogue had a priest and the name he was known by was Jairus  
When he caught sight of Lord Jesus he cried to Him: "Do come oh Jesus!  
Come to my house where my twelve year old daughter is sick and is dying!"  
Jesus was hampered by such a big crowd who for healing were crying,**

**One woman there who was bleeding a lot and been bleeding for years  
No-one could heal her in spite of them trying with all sorts of cures  
She came behind Jesus and touched His cloak and was instantly cured,  
Then Jesus felt a big draining of force that he had just endured!**

**"Who came to touch me?" He asked all around but received no reply.  
"I felt the power go out of me which must have been someone's try!"  
At this the woman who'd BEEN healed by touching could no longer hide  
Came up to Jesus and knelt at His feet thus explaining she tried:**

**"Know all you people I came to touch Jesus so I would be cured,  
I had such faith that through merely a touching my health was assured!"  
When Jesus saw her He said to her kindly: "Do go now in peace!  
It is your faith that from all your old bleeding has given release!"**

**Then came a messenger telling that Jairus' s daughter had died,  
Jesus was not to be troubled, as going there meant a long ride!  
When Jesus heard this, He said to the messenger: "Don't be afraid!  
You must believe and then SHE will be well, but your faith must not fade!"**

**Jesus eventually did reach the home of the dead little girl,  
Many were weeping and mourners arriving were all in a whirl!  
Jesus said: "Don't weep as THIS child is NOT dead for she's only sleeping"  
At this they laughed as they knew she had died, they the vigil were keeping!**

**Jesus then took the dead child by the hand and said: "Child! Do arise!"  
At this her spirit returned to her body with SOME joyous cries!  
Jesus gave orders for food to be given her as she arose  
Also instructed them not to tell others how ended their woes!**

# Luke 9

(hexameter)

Jesus then gave His disciples authority over bad spirits,  
Also the power to heal the infirm, irrespective of merits.  
He sent them forth for announcing the Kingdom and healing the sick  
Jesus said: "Carry no money or bread and you won't need a stick!"

"If you are not well received then just shake all the dust off your boots  
As such would not be of help for preparing the Kingdom's new roots!"  
So these disciples went out by command from one town to another  
Showing by all those they healed that the Kingdom meant each one's a brother!

When they returned they recounted to Jesus the deeds they had done,  
People whose lives had been changed for the first time thought life could be fun  
Jesus He wished to His Father to pray and to rest from His teaching  
But the crowd followed Him as all were anxious to hear His great preaching

Night was already approaching, the crowds were still milling around,  
Jesus's friends then suggested that they should be sent homeward bound  
So they could find some refreshment and somewhere to stay for the night,  
In this great DRY desert feeding them WOULD be hard, try as they might!

Jesus replied: "Give them something to eat!" but His friends then objected  
"We only have just five loaves and two fishes," they said, quite dejected  
"There are five thousand who HAVE come to hear you, so we'll buy some food"  
But the Lord Jesus had other ideas and THEY did turn out to be good!

Jesus said: "Put all these people in small groups of fifty or so,"  
But the disciples knew not how they'd feed when they saw the groups grow!  
Then Jesus took the five loaves and two fishes and prayed to the Lord  
Then His disciples He asked to distribute what little they'd stored!

Five thousand people thus ate all they could and then still there were left  
Twelve great big baskets of uneaten food so no-ONE was bereft!  
Multiplication of bread and the fishes was part of His teaching:  
Feeding the hungry is often much better than doing much preaching!

**Jesus and his twelve disciples were gathered together one day.  
Jesus said: "When people wonder where I am from what do they say?"  
They answered: "They say you ARE John the Baptist or some prophet old"  
Then Jesus said: "Who do YOU think I am, I would like to be told!"**

**Peter replied thus without hesitation: "You are Christ, the Lord!"  
"Do not tell anyone this!" ordered Jesus," and never to scribes of the Board!  
"This Son of man must yet suffer a lot, be rejected by Elders,  
By the Head Priests and the Scribes and the lawyers and Synagogue builders,**

**He'll suffer death at the hands of these people as soon you will see,  
On the third day He will rise, even though he'd been nailed to a tree!"  
But the disciples did not understand all the words He had said,  
They did not know how Lord Jesus could rise, once He WAS truly dead!**

**Then to the crowd He did offer the following serious advices:  
"If any ONE wants to follow Me HE should give UP all his vices!  
He should renounce his own self and each DAY he should carry his cross,  
Trying to save your own life, you'll not save it but suffer a loss.**

**But giving up your own life for the love of the Son, you'll be saved,  
What is the use for a man to possess all the goods he has craved  
If in the process he's lost his own self and his life is in ruin,  
Having ignored what is precious in life in all things he is doing!**

**If any ONE is ashamed of the Son or of truths He's revealed  
When He returns with the Father in glory his fate will be sealed!  
Truly oh truly I tell you that some of you here that I see  
Will live to see the new Kingdom of God as it IS bound to be!"**

**Some eight days later He took three disciples with Him for to pray,  
While He was praying His face and His vestments became as sun's ray;  
Two other persons were speaking with Jesus, Elijah and Moses!  
Transfigured as they appeared to be standing in heavenly poses!**

**Jesus's friends wished to put up three tents for these shimmering creatures,  
When a cloud came and concealed from their view all their heavenly features!  
They were afraid! But a voice thundered out from inside of the cloud:  
"Listen to Him, for He IS my true Son of whom I am so proud!"**

**As the voice died the Lord Jesus, He WAS standing THERE quite alone,  
And His friends dumbfounded thought these events they should never be known!  
Down to this day Jesus' transfiguration has been quite a mystery!  
It's an event that's without any equal in all of our History!**

**On the next day when they came off the mountain they met a big crowd,  
One man among them he greeted Lord Jesus with these words so loud:  
“Master! I beg you, please look at my son by a demon possessed,  
One evil spirit has entered his being which gives him no rest!**

**It does contort him and makes his mouth foaming, we cannot come near!  
Your own disciples have JUST tried to cure him but it has no fear!  
Jesus exclaimed: “Oh! You sick generation, how long will you wait?  
Bring me your son, so that I can now HEAL him before it’s too late!”**

**When the afflicted boy CAME near to Jesus, he FELL to the ground,  
In fierce convulsions he writhed and emitted a terrible sound!  
Then Jesus scolded the spirit which instantly left the poor boy,  
Who was restored to his father, who thanked Jesus with heartfelt joy.**

**All those who’d seen this were struck by the greatness of God’s healing power.  
Then Jesus said to the twelve that the time was so near to the hour  
When he would be given over to men to be tried for His life  
But the disciples did not understand what He meant by such strife!**

**Soon the disciples began to discuss who among them’ s the greatest.  
Jesus appealed to their hearts saying caring for children is safest!  
He placed a child on His knees and said: “He who takes care of this child,  
He will receive both myself and he WILL have the Lord on his side!”**

**“He who’s the smallest amongst all of you shall be thought as the greatest,  
Truly I say that the small shall be great and the great shall be smallest!  
This little child on my knees, be he small, can aspire to much greatness!  
In your own hearts be like him and you ARE bound to lose all your meanness”**

**Since time was nearing when He would depart from this World for a while,  
They took the road to Jerusalem (Jesus, He thought of His trial!);  
Jesus dispatched some disciples to one small Samaritan town,  
So they could find them a place in which THEY for the night could bed down**

**They could not find any lodgings for THEY for Jerus’lem were bound,  
Then they did ask Him should these bad Samaritans burn to the ground!  
At this Lord Jesus did scold them for having such cruel a thought:  
“I’m not for HURT but to those who will listen salvation I’ve brought!”**

**While they were walking on one dusty road that some ONE did exclaim:  
“I’ll be your follower everywhere, whether in sun or in rain!”  
Jesus replied: “The wild foxes have lairs and each bird has its nest,  
This Son of Man, He has no place to lay down His head for a rest!”**

**Then to another He said: “Follow Me!”, but He got this reply:  
“First I must bury my father and WITH all the mourners must cry!”  
Jesus replied: “Let the dead do the burying OF their own dead!  
You must announce now the Kingdom of God with its own living bread!”**

**One said he’d follow when he’d seen his family’ d suffer no lack,  
Jesus said no one who’d started the plough would then turn his head back!  
Those looking back cannot BE well adapted to enter the Kingdom,  
Looking ahead for to do our God’s Will is the essence of wisdom!”**

# Luke 10.

(hexameter)

Soon after seventy more new disciples were chosen by Jesus,  
Spreading His word in the World had become much more urgent and serious.  
He sent them out two by two to the places He wanted to visit,  
And He instructed them in simple words to awaken their spirit:

“Note that the harvest is plentiful but those who work it are few,  
Pray to the Lord for more workers to help you in what you must do!  
Lo! I do send you as lambs ‘mongst the wolves to accomplish your task,  
Carry no purse nor big BOOTS and don’t TAKE any wine in your flask!

To passers by you must offer no greeting but ‘with you be peace!’  
Also in entering houses, the blessings of peace you’ll release!  
In any house if you find men of peace they’ll receive all your blessing ,  
If you do not, then your peace stays with you, it can NOT be oppressing!

Do try to stay in one house and do eat and do drink what they offer;  
Workers are worth all their wage, do not wonder what IS in the coffer!  
If in a house you are welcome, then do eat what’s put on the table,  
Tell them the Lord is with THEM, also heal all the sick you’re able!

But in the towns where you aren’t well received, do declaim in the square:  
‘You won’t receive the good news of the Kingdom, your hearts are not there!  
We throw the dust of our boots over you, for you’ve been so ungrateful,  
Though the new Kingdom of God is at hand, where you could still be fruitful!’

Great will the woe be of those multitudes who won’t listen to you,  
On judgement day all the pagans around will fare better than you!  
Listening to you shall be thought as the equal of listening to me,  
Those who repudiate YOU shall be deemed to repudiate me!

There was a doctor of Law who did want to test Jesus’ s knowledge  
(As he knew Jesus was FROM simple stock and had NOT been to College!)  
So he asked: “Master! What HAVE I to do if I WANT to inherit  
Life that’s eternal and what must I do for to guide my own spirit?”

Jesus replied: “In the Law, what is written? This surely you know!”  
He did reply saying: “Love of the Lord in your heart it must grow.  
With all your soul and your mind and your strength on this love you must labour,  
Just as you love your own self, you must give the same love to your neighbour!”



**Jesus said: “You’ve spoken rightly! Do this, and you’ll HAVE life eternal!”  
But the good doctor still wanted to know what was IN the Law’s kernel,  
So he asked Jesus: “But who is my neighbour?” and Jesus replied  
With a good parable, so that the doctor would be satisfied!**

**“There was a Jewish man waylaid by bandits who robbed him of all,  
Then left him lying half dead on the roadside, not caring at all!  
There came a priest who crossed over the road so he wasn’t involved,  
Then yet another man came who likewise not to help was resolved!**

**Then a Samaritan came down the road and he WAS full of pity,  
Bandaged his wounds and placed HIM on his horse and took HIM to a city  
Where at an inn the innkeeper he asked to give HIM some good care,  
Giving him money for medical costs and for mending his wear.**

**Which of these three do you think is the neighbour of our wounded man?”  
“It is the one”, he replied, “who immediate succour began!”  
“You are dead right!”, said Lord Jesus, “So go now and follow his deed!”  
This is how Jesus replied when the lawyer was checking His creed!**

**Once a good woman named Martha invited them into her home.  
She lived with Mary, her sister, but otherwise they were alone.  
Mary would sit at Lord Jesus’ s feet and she listened intently,  
While Martha worked in the house, she was trying to move very gently!**

**Martha thought it was unfair for her sister to leave her to work,  
Sitting by Jesus was great, but then Mary the work shouldn’t shirk!  
Martha then asked Jesus if He would ask Mary not to be lazy,  
Doing the housework alone was beginning to drive her quite crazy!**

**Jesus replied: “You, with housework, appear to be always so busy!  
Dashing all over the place, you are starting to make me quite dizzy!  
There’s just one THING that’s important in life, this your sister has chosen!  
I would not take it away from her, since then her heart might be frozen!”**

## Luke 11.

(anapestic tetrameter)

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Some disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray,  
In reply Jesus then taught them these words to say:  
Let our Father in Heaven be hallowed and blessed  
Let His Kingdom arrive for to free the oppressed.  
Let us have every day all the bread that we need  
And we ask: Do forgive us for each wicked deed!  
As we too must forgive those who HAVE done us wrong,  
And against all temptation help US to be strong!

Then about how to pray He related this tale  
(He did want to point out that true prayer can't fail!)  
You might go to a friend and then knock on his door  
And then ask: can you borrow some bread from his store,  
A few friends have arrived and you have no more bread.  
From the window he shouts: ' Ask another instead!  
You can see the door's locked and we are all in bed!'  
What would BE the next thing to which you would be led?

Well, of course, you could knock there again and again  
Telling him he's your friend among all other men!  
In the end he'd come down and give YOU what you need,  
And the scene could well be for new friendship the seed!  
If you ask, you'll receive, if you seek you will find,  
If you knock on the door, you will find someone kind  
Who will open for you and receive you with love,  
So just ask and receive from your Father above!

If your son asks for fish, do you give him a snake?  
If he asks for an egg, will a scorpion make  
Him as happy as IF he'd received what he'd asked?  
When instead in his father's true love could have basked?  
So if sinners can give such good things if need be,  
How much more you'll receive if you WILL follow me,  
As your Father in Heaven will TAKE care of all,  
You just ask, and I say: He'll be hearing your call!

**Once a man was possessed by a demon quite dumb,  
So he uttered no words, nor a tune could he hum!  
But when Jesus arrived it did flee from his host,  
Then the man he did speak, with no trace of the ghost!  
All the people around were amazed at the fact  
Although some thought that Jesus by Satan was backed!  
So they wanted some sign that His strength came from God,  
They were NOT very sure if it's God's path He trod!**

**Jesus tried to explain that in order to rule  
You must stay undivided or you'd be a fool  
If His work was Satanic against Satan called,  
His dominion would fall, his support being stalled!  
How could Satan's rule last if each other they fight,  
That would be quite enough to destroy all his might.  
And when YOU drive out demons, is IT Satan's trick?  
My own POWER comes from God when I'm healing the sick!**

**If your house is defended by some guards all well armed  
Who will also take care of the fields you have farmed,  
When the enemy comes for to rob your domain  
You'll be safe and the robbers' attack will be vain.  
If your enemy has much superior arms  
It will be of no use to sound all the alarms  
As the robbers will win and the booty divide,  
Your defence will be useless in spite of your pride.**

**You're against me if YOU'RE not with ME in this fight,  
There is NO neutral ground, it is darkness or light!  
You will scatter if YOU are not with me for to reap,  
You will reap only IF my true words you will keep!**

**When a demon goes out of the host where it's stayed,  
It will try to have rest ere repeating its raid.  
But when peace does not come, it returns to its host  
Though it finds him all clean with no room for a ghost!  
Then it looks for more demons, perhaps seven more  
And together they capture the host with a roar!  
Therefore WHEN it's all over for THIS wretched host,  
He is worse than before, though the demons can boast!**

**The whole crowd did believe that the time should be nigh  
When new wonders are seen as true signs in the sky!  
But Lord Jesus, He told them no wonders would come,  
Just a wonder like Jonah's, accepted by some.  
Jonah was a true sign for the true Ninevites  
Also THIS Son of man shall be sign for these times.  
On the great Day of Judgement old Sheba's great queen  
Will accuse you all here for what YOU haven't been!**

**This great queen journeyed far for to hear a king wise,  
The events of these days will be your great surprise!  
But the people of Nineveh ON judgement day  
Will accuse you for NOT joining in Jonah's way!  
If a lamp has been lit, it should go on a stand,  
Not in ONE hidden place, this you all understand!  
When the people come into the room they should see  
All that IS in the room, all as bright as can be!**

**Your own body has lamps in the shape of your eyes,  
When your eyes are all sound, your whole body, it shines  
To illuminate all with the light you create!  
If your eyes are not good, you are just a dark lake!  
If you ARE full of light, no suggestion of dark,  
Your whole body will shine, not appearing too stark  
Just as WHEN a good lamp shines all over the place,  
All is CLEAR and so bright and the world's full of grace!**

**Then it happened that one Pharisee came to ask  
Jesus IN to his home after this speaking task  
For to BE honoured guest at his house for a meal  
Which for one more discourse was for Jesus the seal.  
When Lord Jesus sat down to the table to eat,  
He did SO but without washing hands or His feet.  
So His host asked Lord Jesus why HE didn't wash,  
He replied with these words that came out with a rush:**

**“Pharisees tend to clean the outside of a plate  
While the inside remains in a dirtier state.  
You are fools if you think He who made the outside  
Is not also the same who had made the inside.  
If you gave every THING that is on your full plates  
To the poor then your souls would be IN clearer states!  
You do pay legal tithes as the Law does demand  
While neglecting to practise God's love all around!**

**You all love the best seats in your fine worship place,  
You enjoy humble greetings in your Market Place.  
You are like unmarked graves over which people walk,  
They know not what's within when with people you talk!  
One good doctor of Law said to Him at this point:  
"Why do you in such manner us lawyers insult?"  
To which Jesus thus answered for clearing the air:  
"You put loads on poor people that they cannot bear!"**

**"You will not lift a finger to help with their load,  
But will build fancy tombs for adorning the road  
For the prophets your fathers in their time did kill  
Saying THEY had to do it to do their God's Will!  
Retribution will come on that dread final day  
When you hypocrites learn that you cannot hold sway  
To the door of the house you have guarded the key  
Where true knowledge is kept and for ever will be  
Even you cannot enter this same holy place  
Yet you're KEEPing those out who do have much more grace!"**

## Luke 12.

**“Do be warned of the danger of Pharisees’ yeast,  
Well concealed and so hidden is hypocrisy’s beast!  
There is nothing that’s hidden that won’t be revealed,  
There is never a secret that won’t be unveiled  
So that all that you’ve uttered while hid in the dark  
Will be heard in the light at the birth of the spark!  
Every THING that you’ve whispered in somebody’s ear  
Shall be shouted from rooftops and shall be made clear!**

**But to you, my dear friends, I can tell you this straight:  
Fear the ONE who will kill by the spread of much hate  
So he CAN pull you in through his hell’s open gate;  
Fear him SO, since with him more than life is at stake!  
Sparrows five in the stores for one dime can be sold,  
Though not ONE is forgotten in your God’s heart of gold!  
What is more, every strand of your hair, it is known,  
Surely YOU are worth more than five birds on a stone!**

**If you do recognize Me before other men,  
Then before holy angels I’ll know you again!  
But whoever denies me before other men,  
Holy angels will tell him he’s not in my ken!**

**Whosoever will speak ‘gainst this Son of man,  
He can still be forgiven, this is in my Plan  
But then he who the Great Holy Spirit will curse,  
No forgiveness he’ll gain, for the judgement is terse!  
So whenever in court you’re arraigned by the law,  
You should NOT trouble IF your defence has a flaw,  
Since God’s OWN spirit WILL tell you how to respond  
As the Lord God He knows that your faith is your bond!”**

**Someone FROM a big crowd, he had these words to say:  
“Master! Do tell my brother he ought to this day  
Give me half his inheritance AND with no grudge!”  
Jesus said: “Who d’ you think made me your district judge?”  
“Don’t allow any avarice IN your own life,  
It is NOT worldly goods that are worth all the strife!”**

**“There was once a land Owner whose land was so rich  
He could reap a great deal from what grew in a ditch!  
He brought in so much grain, he could not store it all,  
So he built bigger granaries, wider and tall!  
Then he said to his soul: ‘You have all that you need!  
So just drink and be merry and ride on your steed!’  
The Lord God then did warn him his soul He would take  
And his wealth would be useless for THIS trip to make!”**

**“Why are YOU all so anxious about your own lives?  
What to eat? What to wear? I can hear all your cries!  
Life is more than the food that you gather to eat,  
You are more than what’s on you from head to the feet!  
See the birds? They don’t sow, they don’t work in the fields  
Yet enough nourishment the Lord God to them yields!  
Do you not have more value than birds in the air?  
The Lord God will look after you while you are here!**

**Which of you by one minute can lengthen his life?  
For the rest why succumb to such useless a strife?  
Look upon these wild lilies, look how they do grow!  
They do NOT labour, OR reap and they do not sow!  
Yet I tell you that Solomon IN all his splendour,  
He was never a match to these lilies in grandeur!  
If the Lord is so pleased to adorn every plant,  
How much more your desire for some clothes He will grant!**

**What to eat or to drink you must not think about,  
As your Father knows well all your needs, have no doubt!  
It is best that you seek the new Kingdom to come,  
Other needs will be met as God’s Will shall be done!  
You should sell all your goods and give all to the poor,  
In your purse then instead goods for Heaven can store!  
Such goods ARE inexhaustible AND last for ever,  
And no robber can steal them, there’s none that’s so clever!**

**Make yourselves ready now with your lamps all alight,  
Your employer's come home in a mood oh so bright!  
From the feast of his wedding he has just returned,  
Open doors and warm welcome is what he's surely earned!  
If you welcome him thus, he will take off his coat,  
He will set you at table and ON you he'll dote!  
See? A landlord who knows when a thief means to come,  
For defending his house he gets everything done,  
So the thief has no chance of ransacking his house,  
As he watches so carefully, still as a mouse!  
In the same way you must be for ever alert,  
As the time of my coming you cannot assert"**

**So then Peter asked Jesus: "Is THIS tale for us?  
Or else is it for others you're telling it thus?"  
"Tell me WHO is the wisest and most faithful servant?  
He is surely the one who in service is fervent!  
His good master will put him in charge of the rest.  
A delay in the master's return is the test.  
If the servant in charge starts to strike all the others,  
Thinks of eating himself but not feeding his brothers.  
Then the master will come when he IS not expected,  
When this servant is punished and justly rejected.**

**So the servants who know well the will of their master,  
But they WILL make no effort to work any faster,  
Will be treated quite sternly just AS they deserve.  
But the servants who do not know how well to serve  
And so fail to do well in the way they have worked  
Will be treated less harshly for what they have shirked!  
If you're given a lot, you'll be called to do more,  
But if given yet more, more to do is in store!  
I have come to the Earth for a fire to light,  
What shall THEN be my task ere it's burning all bright?  
I still have a baptizing that I must go through,  
And so I am distressed till this role becomes true!**



**Do you think that I've come for to bring you more peace?  
It is rather to make the divisions increase!  
From now on if some-WHERE there are five persons living  
There'll be two against three who will NOT be forgiving  
Between father and son there will be no agreement,  
Nor will mother and daughter feel any contentment!  
When you see a black cloud rushing in from the West,  
You will say it will rain, which will answer your quest.  
When the South wind does blow, you'll say IT will be warm,  
And the flowers will bloom and the bees they will swarm!  
You can foretell events on the Earth and the sky,  
But the signs of these times to detect you won't try!**

**I do ask why yourselves do not judge what is just?  
If you ARE on your way to a judge that you trust  
On the road to the magistrate strike a fair deal  
Since you don't know the judge nor the way he will feel  
He might find you at fault and send YOU straight to jail,  
Your objections to such simply will not avail.  
You will not leave the jail till you've done all your time  
And you've paid all your debt to the very last dime!**

## Luke 13.

(Elongated anapestic tetrameters)

Pilate needed aqueducts built, with firm towers and with no tilt!  
So he hired Jewish labour, guarded by much Roman sabre  
But they knew no rules for building so the towers started tilting,  
Eighteen workers, they were killed, it collapsed, what they had built!  
Jesus asked those in the crowd what man's guilt was all about:  
"Did these workers have more guilt, since they might have caused the tilt?  
I say no! If you don't mend, you'll die like these in the end!  
If you do not mend your ways, Satan will brook no delays!"

"Once the owner of a fig tree went to check what on it might be,  
He was looking for some fruit, as his thirst now that would suit!  
But no fruit his tree was bearing, all in spite of all his caring.  
He the gardener then instructed that the fig tree be destructed,  
Since no figs had been maturing (three whole years this was enduring!),  
Taking goodness from the soil, not responding to his toil  
But the gardener then entreated: "Do not let us be defeated!  
Let the tree grow one more year, I will tend it, have no fear!  
If success us does not crown, we can always cut it down!"

Once Lord Jesus, He was teaching, on the Sabbath He was preaching.  
Someone there was greatly ailing, demons in her were prevailing,  
She was stooping and in tears, being thus for eighteen years!  
Jesus saw her and He said: "You are free! You shall be straight!"  
This to demons put a stop and the sick one straightened up.  
One high priest had angry feelings, disapproving of such healings,  
So he shouted to the crowd, making sure his voice was loud:  
"There are six days all for working, so these days are for your healing!  
Do not come on Sabbath day, Sabbath breaking 's not our way!"

Jesus said: "You hypocrites! With your thinking how this fits!  
If your donkey thirsts for water, quench his thirst d' you think you ought to  
Even if it's on Day Seven, would objections come from Heaven?  
Look at this girl, kept in bondage, would she not need the advantage  
Of a healing from her sickness, with the Sabbath as the witness?"

"To compare our Lord God's Kingdom, you will need a little wisdom!  
This is how I will explain it, understanding thus you'll gain it!  
Mustard seeds a man is sowing, so a tree there could be growing,  
Soon it does become a tree, Nature' wonder, you'll agree!  
In its branches birds come resting, it's a good place for their nesting.  
Or the Kingdom's like some yeast, which its growth has never ceased  
And makes bread out of good flour, sprouting growth just like a flower!"

Toward Jerusalem He was walking, when some people started talking:  
“Can you tell us what is true? To be saved are just a few?”  
To which Jesus then replied: “Where d ‘you go when you have died?  
You must use the narrow door! Then you’ll find a precious store!  
There are many who will try it, few of these are who can pry it,  
Since the host will shut the door, even though you do implore!  
But the master then will say: ‘I don’t know you! Go away!’  
Then you’ll say: “We ate together! You did teach I was a brother!’  
But the master, He’ll repeat: ‘Here you will not get a seat!  
Go away you wicked folk, since on Earth My laws you broke!’  
You will weep and gnash your teeth, writhing on a barren heath,  
Since inside you’ll see the righteous, those who lived a life more virtuous  
While you ‘re thrown out of the door, lying beaten on the floor!  
Folks will come from East and West, they’ve passed through a life long test,  
They will come from South and North, praising God for all they ‘re worth.  
They’ll partake in this great feast served for them through rising yeast!  
Those who are amongst the last, shall be first at this repast,  
Those who now boast as the first, will be last to quench their thirst!”

Pharisees then said to Jesus: “Our ambassadors have told us  
That King Herod wants you dead, so escape to save your head!”  
“What is it that he’s so keen on, while I drive out every demon  
And continue with the healing of all those from sickness reeling?  
I’ll be working on the morrow and the day after tomorrow,  
On the third day I shall leave you, I may not much longer see you!  
So Jerusalem is for dying if from rooftops truths you’re crying!  
In your city you kill prophets, stoning them gets you no profits!  
How I’ve wanted to embrace you, from disaster thus to save you!  
Like the hen, with wings I’d save you, but you’ve signalled: “I won’t let you!”  
Your great temple for destruction, it is doomed through your inaction!  
I declare that you won’t see me until truly you can tell me:  
‘May God bless those who are coming in the Lord’s name, harps a-strumming!”

## Luke 14.

On one Sabbath they asked Jesus: "Will you have some dinner with us?"  
Jesus said He would accept, so more teaching He'd elect!  
One sick man was in the crowd, for his limbs complaining loud;  
Jesus asked the Pharisees: "If we wish the Lord to please,  
Heal the sick, is it now lawful? Or is it a sin too awful?"  
None of them the question answered, as the Law they hadn't mastered!  
So the sick man's limbs were healed and was sent back to his field.  
Then Lord Jesus tried explaining, to prevent any complaining:  
"If your child falls in a deep hole, is it lawful for your own soul  
Even on a Sabbath day for to save him right away?"  
Pharisees gave no reply, but they thanked Him bye and bye.

At a feast if you're a guest, sit in high place's not the best  
As another, better known and to great importance grown,  
Might arrive and take your place (of good manners you've no trace!)  
But if you sit as the lowest and the humblest and the slowest,  
Then your host will say: "You're able to come further up the table"  
If you're great, you will be small, but if modest, you'll grow tall!"

When you give a party dinner, do not ask your circle inner,  
Brothers, sisters or rich neighbours, as such will return your favours!  
To be paid for all your trouble, you must be a bit more subtle!  
Ask the poor and lame and blind, no return is much more kind!  
Ten times more you'll be rewarded, since a free feast you have ordered.  
On the day of resurrection, they'll recall your kindly action!

One who heard this said to Jesus: "What's the feast like? Can you tell us?"  
As their interest started swelling, the Lord Jesus started telling:  
"Once a man prepared a dinner, he was sure it was a winner!  
When the chairs were right for seating and all ready for good eating,  
He his servants then instructed, with these words He them directed:  
'Tell the guests to come and feast, I don't mind how in the least!'"  
All the guests, they gave excuses, sounding almost like abuses:  
One had just bought one big field, which therefore had to be tilled,  
Another'd bought five pairs of oxen, in their stalls he had to lock them;  
One said he had just got married, so the nuptials hadn't tarried!  
When the servants told their master, he then gave them this clear answer:  
'Search the streets all up and down, look in every nook in town,  
Find the crippled, lame and blind and the poor of every kind,  
Ask them to our sumptuous feast, don't be nervous in the least'

**Soon the servants then returned, telling what their actions earned:  
‘We have done as we were told, we’ve invited young and old,  
But there’s MORE room at the table, folks do think it’s quite a fable!  
Then the master told each servant, in a voice so loud and fervent:  
‘Go and search the roads and ways, and the footpaths and the lanes,  
For more guests to fill the table, bring as many as you’re able!  
But the guests on my old list, can get lost in yonder mist!’**

**As Lord Jesus walked along, He spoke thus to a big throng:  
“You cannot be my disciple unless truly you are able  
To love ME more than another, either sister or a brother,  
Or your children or your wife, or the Mother of your life!  
You will suffer greater loss, if you do not bear your cross.**

**If you plan to build a tower, you must know if you’ve the power,  
You should check the building cost, otherwise you might be lost;  
You might not have all the money and it would not be so funny  
To have one part only built, people laughing at your guilt!**

**If ten thousand go to battle, it’s no use their sabres rattle  
If the foe have twenty thousand, it is best to seek a house and  
There to parley with your foe, and in peace he’ll let you go!  
For to be my own disciple, love of goods you have to stifle!**

## Luke 15.

Often Jesus sat with sinners, even sharing in their dinners;  
Pharisees thought this was wrong, speci'ally when they heard their song.  
So Lord Jesus tried to reach them and with parables to teach them:  
"If you had one hundred sheep and lost one on mountains steep  
Would you not leave ninety nine, searching for the one a sign?  
Having found it you'd rejoice, telling friends in cheerful voice:  
'I have found what I have lost! All the search was worth the cost!'  
It's the same in Heaven's fields, where repentance much joy yields,  
Greater joy for one repentance than for many virtuous entrants!

If a woman has ten dollars, losing one she has no solace  
Till she searches and she finds her lost dollar that she minds!  
Then she calls in all her friends as the search at last it ends,  
Saying 'Look what I have found! My lost coin so slick and round!'  
The Lord's angels will rejoice for repentance with one voice!"

"There was once a great landowner, who had land in every corner,  
His two sons helped on the farm, keeping all from any harm.  
Once the young son he did wonder, of his own share he did ponder.  
"Can I have the share that's mine? I could seek my fortune fine!"  
So his share to him was given, for which he for long had striven.  
Soon his share of land he sold, so instead had piles of gold!  
Then he left for distant lands where he mixed with reckless bands.  
Soon he spent the gold he had, in loose living, which was bad!  
Then a famine did descend, but his funds were at an end!  
So for farmers he would dig and take care of many a pig  
For some time he had no food which then made him start to brood  
That he must come to his senses and find ways of mending fences!  
'Those for father who do labour have more food than I can savour!  
I will go to see my father, tell him work for him I'd rather!  
His true son I'll never be, but for work he'd hire me!'  
So for home he started out, many miles he walked about!  
When his father saw him coming, he towards him started running,  
When he reached him at long last, the young son was quite aghast  
At his father's swift embraces who of anger had no traces!  
Then the son said: "Father mine! I'm not worthy to be thine!  
I have sinned against thy goodness and against Jehovah's greatness!"  
But the father asked his men to find robes for him again  
And the best shoes for his feet and a ring to seal the treat!  
'Go and kill the fatted calf, get some help from all the staff  
To prepare a joyful dinner which this day does have to trigger!  
He was dead but he's alive! He's been found!' the father cried.  
So the feast began in earnest, can you guess who was the fastest?

The other son outside was working, his strict duties never shirking,  
As he came back from the field which with painful sweat he'd tilled  
He saw dancing and heard singing, what was all this riotous living?  
He asked servants on the matter, who'd engaged in idle chatter:  
"What are all these celebrations, what's the dancing and elation?"  
'It's your brother who's returned that to feasting all has spurred!  
And the best calf has been killed, by your father it was willed!"  
After working he was hungry, but inside he was too angry  
To go in and join the fun, hating what his father' d done!  
When his father saw his kin, he did beg him to come in.  
Angrily his son replied, saying he would stay outside:  
'I've worked for you like a slave so that you your wealth could save!  
Carried out your strictest orders for the work within your borders!  
For all this you gave me naught, not a goat for me you'd brought!  
But this son who's lived with strumpets, you reward, which is all nonsense!'  
Then his father tried explaining why from anger was refraining:  
'As our wealth together grows, what is mine is also yours!  
But we now must celebrate, for our joy which should be great,  
As your brother is alive, who from death to life did strive!  
He was lost and now he's found, let rejoicing now resound!'

## Luke 16.

There was once a very rich man, who thought he'd make quite a good plan:  
For to manage his estate, one good servant would be great!  
But soon after his appointment, he received a bad assessment  
Of the way the estate was run, so what was there to be done?  
So he called the erring person: "Show your books, so I can learn some!"  
When the servant this had heard, thought that cheating he preferred.  
So his job he wouldn't lose, he a shrewd plan thought he'd use:  
So he called those he could get, who to Master were in debt.  
He asked one how much he owed him, hundred cans of oil, he told him.  
But he told him: "Your account, just to fifty will amount!"  
Going on to make things better, then he asked another debtor:  
"How much do you owe my master?" to which quickly he did answer:  
"Thousand sacks of wheat I owe which with interest will grow!"  
"Write it as eight hundred sacks, that will keep you on your tracks!"  
Then his master (quite surprising!), this his shrewdness was admiring  
People of this wicked world, flags of wealth tend to unfurl  
And are shrewder with their might, than the people of the light!

Pharisees at Jesus sneered as he through these problems steered,  
So He told them very clearly, what is best to know quite early:  
"You make sure that you look right in the worldly people's sight.  
But God knows what's in your hearts when the sin of pride there starts!  
What to man is of great value in God's sight is naught, I tell you!  
It is easier f' Heaven and Earth just to vanish than the worth  
Of one letter of the Law vary from what God did draw!

There was once a very rich man who his days in luxury ran,  
Another man was very poor, on his body many a sore,  
He was brought to rich man's door, where he lay still on the floor  
Seeking crumbs from rich man's table, calm his hunger he was able.  
Once the poor man, he did die and with angels he did fly  
To a feast with Abraham, with good bread and luscious lamb!  
Soon the rich man also died but to Hades he was plied  
It was torture in the fire, suffering pain ever so dire!  
When the rich man looked up skyward, he was sorry he'd been wayward  
As he saw the poor man feasting, and with Abram lightly jesting!  
"Father Abraham! Do have pity! On me in this burning city!  
Ask the poor man to bring water, which this burning it might alter!"



**Abraham said to the rich man: “On the Earth, remember, my son,  
You had all but this one had none, from your table just the one crumb!  
But he now gets his enjoyment and for you the pain is now meant!  
And besides, do you not see it? There between us is a deep pit!  
From this side you cannot cross, it was planned so by The Boss!  
Nor can you come over here, it is made so, never fear!**

**Then the rich man thus replied: “I’ve five brothers!”, thus he cried,  
“Send the poor man down who’ll say how to tread the proper way!  
If a man came from the grave and the message clearly gave  
They would then believe his word, coming from one that’s interred!”  
Abraham said in reply: “Law of Moses they should try!  
If they don’t believe the prophet, dead man’s words them will not profit!”**

## Luke 17.

**“Possibilities for sins come very often in a life’s run  
But the great shame is for those who lead people to their woes!  
With a millstone round their neck throw them in right off the deck  
Rather than allow the tempting which they might still be attempting,  
Leading children into sin, so watch out what you begin!”**

**“How of faith we can have more?”, Jesus’ friends came to implore.  
“If the faith in your own deeds were as firm as mustard seeds,  
You could then say to this tree: ‘Plant yourself down in the sea!’  
And the tree ‘d do as commanded since by faith you had demanded!”**

**“If your sheep your servant ‘s guarding or your field he is a – ploughing,  
When he’s finished working hard, can your meal then he retard  
By first calming his own hunger? No! You’ll not wait any longer!  
But command to get your meal, as such is the servant’s deal!  
When you’ve had your food and drink, of his own needs he can think!  
Such a servant needs no thanks, it’s the duty of his ranks!  
It’s the Lord whom you are serving, do your duty without erring  
And say: ‘It’s just been our duty, in our serving lies the beauty!’**

**Jesus entered in a town, which was of no great renown,  
Where there were ten men diseased who to see him would be pleased!  
They said: ‘Master! Will you heal us! Have some pity, good Lord Jesus!’  
Jesus then His walking ceased, ‘Get examined by the priest!’  
Said He in a thundering voice, making all ten so rejoice  
As they all had been made clean when in temple they’d been seen!  
One of them came back to Jesus, ‘We do thank you that you’ve healed us!’  
Said he as he knelt before Him, thus his grateful thanks he bore him.  
He was one Samaritan, for whom Jews much hatred fan!  
Jesus said: ‘Ten men were healed, did you leave nine in some field?’  
“How come foreigners are thankful, yet the Jews are much more bashful?”  
To the one who came He said: ‘Your faith healed you! Go ahead!’**

**Pharisees once did ask Jesus: ‘When’s the Kingdom? Can you tell us?’  
‘Lord God’s Kingdom is not seen!’, Jesus said, ‘it’s always been!  
You can’t say that it is here, or it’s there or anywhere,  
Since this Kingdom’s in your heart, you’ll look there, if you are smart!’**

**“Think ahead now, if you can! When will come the Son of Man?  
Him so much you’ll want to see, but you’ll know it cannot be!  
Some will say He’s over here, others that He’s over there  
At such promptings don’t go looking, as false prophets are not knowing!**

**When the Son of Man returns, He will clear up your concerns  
As the lightning clears the sky, lighting those that through it fly!  
But at first He'll be rejected, so that sins can be corrected!  
But the hour when He comes back will be hidden from your track!**

**At the time of Noah's rain, warnings went out all in vain,  
Some were eating, some were drinking but of floods they had no inkling,  
When the flood came, the depraved were all drowned but Noah was saved!  
On the day that Lot left Sodom, they knew not they would hit bottom  
As they ate and drank and married and the harvest home they carried;  
From the sky came deadly fire and they suffered death so dire!  
When the Son of Man's returned, each will get what he has earned!**

**If you're on the roof that day, don't go in to get your hay  
Or if you are in your field, leave undone what's still untilled!  
Think of Lot's wife who looked back, of her eyesight suffered lack!  
On that night two' ll sleep together but as storms begin to gather,  
One is taken, one is left, of each other they're bereft!  
Two will then be grinding corn but before the break of morn  
One is taken, one if left, of each other they're bereft!**

**The disciples then did ask: "When and where will come our task?"  
Jesus thus answered His friends: "I can only tell you trends:  
Where men slaughter one another, vultures there are sure to gather"**

## Luke 18.

Jesus told His friends this tale, so their prayers wouldn't fail:  
In a town a judge was living who no man nor God was fearing,  
There lived also one poor widow in whose life there was a great woe  
She was treated very badly by a person who would gladly  
Take advantage of her state which had happened just of late!  
To the judge she put her case in which justice had no place.  
For a time the judge said clearly: of her case he was too weary,  
But the widow kept on asking for a judgement that was lasting,  
The judge did think in the end that this widow he 'd defend,  
As if not, she'd be a nuisance, while the case would yield a few cents!

Will the Lord not answer asking those who in His love are basking?  
If you're praying day and night, trusting in God' love and might,  
Judgement will be in your favour, as your prayers He does savour!  
At the final day of Birth, will there be much faith on Earth?

Two men once prayed in the Temple, one Pharisee, one more simple;  
This one was a tax collector, who 'd exploited his whole sector.  
The good Pharisee thus prayed, while away from others stayed:  
"Lord! I thank You I'm not greedy, and that I am never needy,  
That I do not lie or cheat, nor my friends' wives ever meet,  
That I'm not a tax collector, like that one who's just an actor!  
That I fast two days a week and with tithe your temple seek!"

But the other one who prayed, with his head down he had stayed,  
Beat his breast and cried to Heaven: "Oh God! Can I be forgiven?  
I'm a sinner, do have pity! I am NOT fit for your City!"  
This last prayer was in God's sight more contrite and signalled more light!  
For the great, they will be pulled down and the humble wear the king's crown!

In a town where Jesus tarried He met folks who children carried;  
Little children, smartly dressed, were brought forward to be blessed!  
Mothers children forward goaded, by disciples they were scolded!  
But Lord Jesus then declared: "If your hearts you could have bared  
You'd have had these children's wisdom and be ready for the Kingdom!  
You must love God as a child, otherwise you'll stay outside!"

Once a leader did ask Jesus: "Oh! Good Teacher! Will you teach us  
To direct our human strife to receive eternal life!"  
Jesus said: "Why call me good? Only God's good, understood?  
You must know what God commands, full obedience He demands!  
Don't be an adulterer, nor a wicked murderer,  
Neighbours' goods you must not use, nor him falsely should accuse,

Be respectful of your parents, if you're not, there are deterrents!  
Thus the rich man then replied: "With all these I have complied!"  
Jesus heard this and he said: "One more thing that must be said:  
Sell the goods you have in store, give the money to the poor!  
Then in Heaven you'll have riches, follow me and do my wishes!"  
The rich man was very sad, on account of what he had.  
Jesus saw that he was sad, with remorse his soul was clad  
So he then rightly declared, his own feelings thus He bared:  
"It is harder for the rich to make Heaven with no hitch  
Than for even quite small camels to pass through the eyes of needles!"

"How must one then have behaved if one does want to be saved?"  
Asked the people in the crowd, wondering so quite aloud.  
"Things that men here cannot do, God can do them, it is true!"  
But then Peter said to Jesus: "We did follow when you called us,  
Leaving family and home, so that with you we could roam!"  
"Leaving children and your parents to become the Lord's adherents  
You will get your compensations, now and in heavenly stations!"

Making sure that every friend was around Him to attend  
Jesus started telling them on their way to Jerusalem:  
"All that prophets wrote about me, now soon realized they will be!  
I'll be handed to Court Roman and be guarded by their bowmen,  
They will mock me and insult me, spitting on me while they whip me,  
In the end I will be killed, life in me will be quite stilled,  
Three days later I will rise, to the multitude's surprise"

Jesus passed a blind old man, who to beg right then began.  
When he heard the passing crowd, he asked: "What is this about?"  
"Jesus, Son of David's passing" was the answer to his asking.  
He then cried: "Oh! David's Son! Look at me! Sight I have none!"  
People tried to quiet him down, but he kept raising his sound:  
"Pity me, oh Son of David! If you will, my life you'll save it!"  
Sitting down at this road's border, Jesus saw him and gave order  
For the blind man to be brought to him and asked what he sought.  
The blind man he thus began: "I do want to see again!"  
Jesus said to him: "Then see! Through your faith, now well you'll be!"  
He at once was made to see, he praised God that this could be!

## Luke 19.

Tax collector called Zaccheus, he did want to see Lord Jesus  
As He passed through Jericho, but his stature was too low!  
He then climbed a great tall tree so that Jesus he could see.  
When Lord Jesus saw him there, He said: "Come down over here!  
I'll stay in your house today, but you must show me the way!"  
So Zaccheus, he climbed down and took Jesus to his town.  
People then began to grumble, to each other thus did mumble:  
"Jesus goes with one great sinner, even sharing in his dinner!"  
But Zaccheus stood erect, saying he'd now be correct.  
"I'll give half of what I own, to the poor who have no home!  
And to those that I have cheated, restitution will be meted.  
What's illegal in my store, four times more I will restore!"  
Jesus said: "Here is salvation! You have stopped your aberration!  
One from Abraham descended, now your ill ways you have mended!"

Once a rich man went his way to a country far away,  
To be made a noble king for the good things he did bring.  
But before he went away with his escort for the way  
He called in his servants ten, giving each a golden coin.  
"With one coin much you can earn, show me when I do return!"  
When he'd gone they sent a message ere he'd finished his whole passage:  
"We don't want you to be king, so don't think of such a thing!"

But he still was made a king, which news to them some did bring.  
Just as soon as he came back, he was ready to attack!  
He then asked them what they'd earned while to them his back was turned  
So the first one, he replied: "To ten coins I've multiplied!"  
"You have thus done very well, these our coffers so to swell!  
You're in charge of ten big towns, to defend them, take some hounds!"  
Then the second one, he said: "To five gold coins I was led!"  
"You're in charge of just five towns, for your office take some gowns!"

One more servant came and said: "This your coin I've kept in bed,  
Tied up my handkerchief, to be safe from every thief.  
I did fear you, as you're hard, so I have been on my guard  
As you take what is not yours and reap WHAT you did not cause!"  
So the master said to this one: "You bad servant! You are undone!  
Your coin why did you not bank, but conceal it in rags dank?  
Thus it's grown no interest, which is husbandry's best test!"

**Then he said to those there standing: “This is now my understanding:  
Take away his golden piece, -give it to the man to please  
Who’s made tenfold interest, on his laurels he should rest!”  
But the servants then objected to their friend being subjected  
To such punishment unfair, which could drive him to despair!  
But the master, he replied: “To all those who are supplied  
With a lot, they will have more, treasures brought right to their door!  
But all those who little own, will be left with the bare bone!  
But now swiftly to me bring those who did not want me king  
And then kill them on the spot, they have earned their cruel lot!”**

**On his way to Jerusalem, to His friends, He said to them:  
“In that village right ahead, to a young colt you’ll be led,  
This young colt you shall untie, and if people ask you why,  
Say it’s needed by your master, so that He can move much faster,  
The disciples did as bidden, found the colt that ne ‘r been ridden  
They untied the little colt, making sure it wouldn’t bolt!  
By the owners they were told: “Why do you take this our colt?”  
When they knew their master’s need, the colt’s owners soon agreed.  
To Lord Jesus it was taken, and the dust from it was shaken,  
On its back with clothes to sit on, which Lord Jesus then could ride on!  
People laid clothes in their path, cheering them from every hearth.  
Near Jerusalem the whole crowd, shouted these words very loud:  
“Let the King be much adored as He comes from God, the Lord!  
Holy peace shall be the story, and to God let there be glory!”  
Then thus spoke some Pharisees: “From your friends let’s have some peace!”  
Jesus said: “If they don’t shout, the mere stones will shout more loud!”**

**As Jerusalem in view He kept, for its fate He sadly wept:  
“Time will come when you’re surrounded, by your foes all exits bounded,  
All your buildings will be wrecked,, dead or poor or the elect!  
Not a stone shall stay in place, since you’ve failed to see God’s grace!”**

**In the Temple Jesus went, where each merchant raised his tent,  
Desecrating holy places, which for prayers left no traces!  
Jesus chased them all away, putting them in disarray!  
He then warned them to be prudent, of the scriptures being students:  
“It is written in the scriptures, underlined by many strictures  
That the Temple is for prayer, where for thieves you’ve made a fair!”**

**Since the Temple is for teaching, where the folk can always reach Him,  
Jesus came there every day for to show the Kingdom’s way.  
But the lawmen and the priests didn’t like this in the least;  
They did want Him to be killed, but the crowd their plot had stilled  
As they’d clung on every word that He preached about the World.**

## Luke 20.

The high priests and all the lawmen and the teachers and some wise men  
They said they would like to know by what right He's teaching so.  
"Let me answer with a question, so to shorten this our session!  
Say if John's right for baptizing was from God or men arising?"  
There ensued a long discussion: If it's God his source of action  
Why did we then not believe him, even of his head relieve him?  
If we say his right's from Man of the actions he began,  
By this crowd we shall be stoned, since John as their prophet roamed!  
If his right's divine or not, they declared that they knew not.  
Then Lord Jesus thus replied (which some logic it implied!):  
"Neither will I say to you, by what right the deeds I do!"

Once a man a vineyard planted and its work to tenants granted  
Who he thought had honest faces, so he journeyed to far places.  
When the time came for the harvest, he sent one slave who would know best  
What his share was of the grapes, he'd know how much each one takes.  
But the tenants didn't want to share the harvest, though they ought to!  
So they beat this slave up badly, who left empty handed sadly!  
Then the owner sent another, hoping this would have no bother,  
This one also got a beating, this seemed their form of a greeting!  
Then he sent one with a letter, but this one, he fared no better!  
Then he sent his own dear son, he should see things rightly done!  
When the tenants saw him coming, they thought of a plot so cunning!  
"He's the heir to this estate, we'll have all, it's not too late!  
If we kill him, all is ours, all the land, even the flowers!"  
So they carried out this murder, hoping all would be in order.  
What will now the owner do? Will he parley? Will he sue?  
No! He'll kill these wicked men, find for tenants other men!  
When the people this did hear, they thought it would not be fair!  
Jesus then quoted this scripture, to surprise them with its tincture:  
"Builders, one stone they rejected, it was worthless, they objected,  
But in spite of this their call, it was most precious of all!"  
Now do try and be more seeing, of this scripture what's the meaning?  
"Any falling on that stone, will be breaking every bone,  
If it falls down, as it must, it will crush you all to dust!"



Lawmen set up one sure test so that Jesus they'd arrest.  
They instructed their own spies to catch Jesus with their lies.  
They would make believe they're friends, and believing in new trends.  
"Can the Roman tax be lawful?", they did ask (will He be truthful?),  
"Bring a Roman coin", said Jesus, then they said: "What will it tell us?"  
So Lord Jesus quickly said: "On the coin, it is whose head?"  
They all answered with a roar: "It's the Roman Emperor!"  
"Pay the Emperor what is due, do for God what you must do!"  
To the trick this was His answer, showing them He was the Master.

Once there came some Sadducees, Jesus with a trick to tease.  
"Moses left us with this law, which for widows is a draw:  
If you're widowed with no son, husband's brother must come on  
For the widow he must marry, so that children she could carry.  
Once there were just seven brothers, they were so good as no others,  
One did marry but he died, the poor widow, how she cried!  
Second brother she did marry but no children did she carry  
Then this brother also died, she was still a childless bride!  
Seven times this did occur, but no children came to her!  
After final resurrection, who's the husband in this action?"  
"On this Earth people have marriage, up above no nuptial carriage,  
There are no husbands and wives, as all live eternal lives!  
They are now the sons of God, as on Earth they rightly trod!  
After our short earthly strife, though we die, we're raised to life  
In the text it clearly so sits, God is God of many prophets  
Not at once on this our Earth, but to God alive they're worth!  
This was His interpretation of the proof of resurrection!  
Then some teachers aptly stated: "Master Jesus, well debated!"

"How can it be the Messiah will descend from David's fire?  
He himself wrote in the Psalms, emphasizing with both arms:  
The Lord said this to my Lord: I will use my deadly sword  
Till I make sure all your foes are a footstool for your toes!  
Here then David called him 'Lord' so how can this be then ignored?  
The Messiah a descendant of King David, though repentant?

"You be wary of the teachers of the Law who are these creatures  
Who walk round in their long robes in the squares and in the groves,  
Who love humbly to be greeted, much respect to them, be meted,  
They in temples choose the best seats and a high place at the great feasts,  
They for widows do not care, yet pray ostentatious prayer  
Their punishment will be worse, being subjects of a curse!

## Luke 21.

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Synagogues had a box for the placing of funds  
Where the rich and the poor every day made their rounds.  
There the rich ostentatiously threw in the cash  
While the poor a few coins in the box they would stash!  
Jesus once saw a man throw a large sum in there  
While a widow put two copper coins, which seemed fair,  
The poor widow contributed more to the box  
Than the man who was rich who put in lots and lots.  
The rich man had paid in from that which he could spare  
While the widow the giving her all she did dare!

Jesus, when His disciples the Temple admired  
(Its great stones turned to pillars such beauty acquired!)  
Told them time would soon come with no stone left unturned  
Everything that's inside to the ground would be burned!  
The disciples then asked what the signals would be  
So that they then might know and more clearly could see  
That events here described were about to take place  
So they'd know what to do for the dangers to face!

Jesus said: "Be on guard, many men, they will claim  
That the time has arrived, that they speak in my name.  
Revolutions and wars are events that I'll send  
As such things must occur well before it's the end!  
Kingdoms will all around one another attack,  
Countries will opt to go on a wild warring track,  
There'll be earthquakes and famine and plagues everywhere,  
Dreadful strange things will rain for a while from the air!  
But you will be arrested before these take place,  
Synagogues will be where you your trials must face;  
You will languish in prisons, some of you will be killed,  
Your own brothers and parents your death will have willed!  
Many people will hate you for following me,  
But stand firm and you'll win in the end, you will see!

When you see this your city surrounded by foes,  
Its destruction you'll know that it is very close.  
So then those in Judea must run to the hills  
To escape the predictions which THAT day fulfills.  
Those who are in the City they must quickly leave  
Those who are in the country for Jerusalem will grieve!

**These are sad days that the scriptures foretell  
If the birth of your baby on that day it fell  
It will not be so good in Jerusalem to dwell  
To move out of the town you would do very well!  
The distress will be great that will come to this land  
In it some will be speared and then crushed in the sand,  
Many taken afar for in prisons to languish  
While all those left behind they will suffer much anguish!**

**Soon the sun and the moon and the stars are disturbed  
Out of fear some will faint when these things have occurred!  
As the oceans will roar and the tides they will rage  
While the stars up above change their course at this stage!  
Son of Man in a cloud will appear in the sky,  
At this time stand you firm as salvation is nigh!  
When the leaves on a fig tree are changing to green  
You know Summer is near by the signal you've seen;  
In the same way you'll know that when these things are done,  
Then the Kingdom of God to the Earth it will come!**

**Do remember these things will occur before long  
It will be ere the races now here have all gone!  
This our Earth and the Sky might indeed pass away  
But my words, they'll survive and for ever hold sway!**

## Luke 22.

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Preparations were in order for the great feast of Passover  
When the chief priests and the lawmen thought of Jesus as bad omen.  
In the Torah they were searching how to kill Him for His teaching,  
But afraid of people knowing, they in secret were proceeding.

Into Judas Satan entered who betraying Jesus ventured,  
He with lawmen made a contract whom in secret he did contact;  
He knew how they could waylay Him, with a kiss he would betray Him!  
The chief priests agreed a ransom to be paid which was quite handsome

At this time the day arrived, when Passover lambs, they died;  
Jesus sent out John and Peter, their Passover they should see to.  
They then asked Him where it was, for Passover the right house  
Jesus gave them these instructions, they were clear without discussion:

“When a few streets you have passed, if your eyes ahead you cast,  
You’ll see someone with some water whom to follow then you ought to.  
When he goes into a building (from your heart all fears then shielding)  
Find the owner and do say: Teacher says that for this day  
For Passover we will stay, show us where we plates can lay  
He will take you up some stairs to a room with table and chairs.”  
They did everything as bidden, there was nothing that was hidden.  
They the Passover prepared, showing Jesus that they cared!

When Lord Jesus took His seat, His disciples He did greet:  
“Of Passover, this good supper, let’s enjoy it ere I suffer!  
Thus I no more shall be eating, till the Kingdom yields its meaning!”  
“This cup is for you to share, drink the wine I’ve poured in there!  
For I will drink no more wine, till appears the Kingdom’s sign!”  
Then He broke a piece of bread, giving thanks to God He said:  
“This my body’s to you given for the saving of the living,  
Do this oft in my remembrance, breaking bread with this my sentence!”  
He then also raised His cup, saying this, holding it up:  
“Here’s the new contract of God, rightly sealed with my own blood,  
It is shed for your salvation, reaching out to every Nation!”  
“Here’s the one who will betray me, sitting at the table with me!  
It is so ordained by God, I’ll be laid under the sod!  
But how dreadful for the traitor, how he’ll suffer for it later!”  
They then had a long discussion, wondering whose was the dread function!  
Then they argued what the great test would be for knowing the greatest!  
“Kings of pagans have the power, whether it be sweet or sour,  
Much admiring them attends, they are called the People’s Friends!  
But with you it is not THIS way, greatest is the youngest, I say,

**Leaders must be servant-like, never wielding spear or pike!  
You've seen me through thick and thin, coming through the conflicts' din,  
As God gave me right to rule, I do give you as your jewel  
The same rights that He did give me, in my Kingdom, you will see me,  
Sitting with you at my table and to rule you will be able  
O'er the tribes of Israel, which you will do very well!"**

**"Simon, Listen! Mind your action! Satan has received permission  
For to test you to distinguish, whether good or bad you'll finish  
I with prayer your heart assail, so your faith should never fail!"**

**"I to you so gladly listen and willingly go to prison,  
And for you I'd gladly die" Simon Peter so did cry.  
Then Lord Jesus said to Simon: "I don't know who to rely on!  
Ere the cock crows in the morn, you will feel so sad and torn  
When you're asked whether you know me, you will say you've never seen me!"**

**"Time gone by I let you loose, without purse or bag or shoes;  
Did you suffer any lack as you went along your track?"  
"No, we didn't miss a thing, since to nothing we did cling!"**

**"If you now have purse or bag, don't behind each other lag!  
Take them with you on the road when you've left your own abode.  
If you've no sword, sell you coat and then buy one, please do note!  
In the scriptures thus it tells: "He shared fate with criminals!"  
Now the scripture's coming true, in it's written what I do!  
The disciples spoke the words: "Here are then two brand new swords!"  
"That's enough now", said Lord Jesus, "Let us pray now ere they see us!"**

**Jesus reached the Mount of Olives, which to Him oft greater peace gives!  
When He reached His chosen station, "Do not fall into temptation!"  
Said He when at a short distance knelt down and prayed for assistance.  
"Father! Take this cup away, if Your Will can turn that way!  
But Your Will must have its sway and I'll put my fears at bay!"  
Then an angel did appear, for to cleanse Him of His fear;  
In great anguish He was praying, sweats of blood from Him were falling!**

**After prayer, when He rose, He returned to look for those  
Whom He left while He was praying, found them all together sleeping!  
Jesus said: "Why do you sleep? You will need much prayer deep  
For to face the situation which will be full of temptation!"**

**While Lord Jesus was still speaking, many folk began arriving  
Judas with them in the lead, ready for his wicked deed!  
To make sure the priests won't miss Him, Judas came near for the kiss Him.  
"With a kiss will you betray me, so the Romans, they can slay me?"  
Said Lord Jesus to the traitor since He knew what would come later.**

His disciples when they saw wherefore came these men of Law  
Asked if swords should now be used to prevent Him being abused!  
One did strike the High Priest's slave, at his ear the blow he gave;  
"There is no need for offence, to this ear I'll make amends!"  
So He touched the slave's hurt ear, which was healed at once right there!

To the people in the crowd, He declaimed in a voice loud:  
"Why d' you come with swords to draw, as though I were an outlaw?  
Every day in the Great Temple, to arrest Me had been simple!  
Why come in the dead of night, do you fear you have no right?  
This your act springs from your souls, where indeed much darkness rules!"

Jesus thus was then arrested, by the High Priests to be tested.  
He was taken to the Priest's place, Peter followed at a slow pace.  
He saw fire in a courtyard, at the entrance there was no guard,  
In the cold he did desire to sit down there by the fire.  
When a servant girl there saw him, she thought she had recognized him,  
She said: "You were with that Jesus, about Him what can you tell us?"  
"This man Jesus I don't know!", answered Peter, speaking low.  
Yet another said: "It's true! You are one of His men too!"  
Peter answered, full of fear: "I don't know Him, do you hear?"  
One man said an hour later: "This man I think is a traitor!  
He too comes from Galilee, like that Jesus, don't you see?"  
So that he'd dispel the doubt said: "What do you speak about?"  
Ere his voice died down to low, the dawn cock began to crow!  
Our Lord's insight was so apt: Peter Simon left and wept!

While the men Jesus were guarding, they were mocking, and were laughing,  
They would beat Him and insult Him and blindfold Him while they mocked Him.

Then at daybreak He was taken to the Council, though quite shaken;  
"Are you our Messiah? Tell us!", they were asking the Lord Jesus.  
"If I tell, you'll say I'm lying", Jesus said, to them replying,  
"If I question, you won't answer, as you think yourself the master"  
"Are you then the Son of God?", this last question was their plot!  
"Yes, it is just as you say!", was His answer, clear as day.  
"Witnesses we needn't hear!", said the lawmen who were there,  
"We all heard what He's just said! Now on firm ground we can tread!  
Said the lawmen to each other, "to convict will be no bother!"

## Luke 23.

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They brought Jesus to Pilate so they could accuse  
Him of telling our folks Roman law to abuse!  
He has said we should not pay the Emperor's tax,  
In more ways with your laws he has proved to be lax.  
He has claimed in His talks that He is Jewish King  
And that he to the Jews liberation would bring!  
Therefore Pilate then asked: "Of the Jews are you King?  
Have you said that more freedom to Jews you would bring?"  
"So you say!", replied Jesus in tones rather low,  
"I don't see any reason to condemn this man so!"  
Replied Pilate to those who were seething below!  
But the voice of the crowd down below would still grow.  
Still the crowd's loud insistence became very strong  
And so Pilate did wonder whatever was wrong.  
Pilate learned that Lord Jesus was from Galilee  
And since Herod had charge of that land near the sea,  
Therefore Pilate, he sent Him for Herod to see  
Who had lately decided in Jerusalem to be.  
Herod was very pleased for Lord Jesus to meet,  
He had hoped that He would him with miracles greet!  
He profusely did ply Him with questions galore  
But Lord Jesus stayed silent and answered no more!  
Then the lawmen did lie as they Jesus accused  
So to make the King Herod thus still more confused!  
Then all clothed in fine robes He was sent back to Pilate  
At night-FALL when the night sky had come to be starlit.

Pilate came the Chief Priests and the lawmen to meet  
When he with these firm words the Chief Priests then did greet:  
"I've examined Him here within sight of the crowd  
(I do know Roman law of which I can be proud!)  
I have not found Him guilty of any great crime  
Also Herod's agreed with this judgment of mine!  
There is nothing this man's done that death would demand,  
Let Him go when you've whipped Him, that is my command!"  
Then the folks with one voice in this way they all cried:  
"Kill Him! So, that's because to be King He has tried.  
But Barabas you'll free as he is one of us,  
But that Jesus should die, it will be no great loss!"  
But then Pilate still wanted to set Jesus free;  
"There is naught of which this man so guilty can be"  
Thus he spoke to the crowd who still yelled: "Crucify!"  
"But what crime has He done for which now he should die?"

**I will just have him whipped and then I'll set Him free!"  
He said this to the crowd all still shouting with glee!  
But they kept on still shouting for Jesus' s death  
Till they all became hoarse and were quite out of breath!  
In the end Pilate gave in to these loud demands,  
Gave the sentence of death as the one who commands.  
He set free young Barrabas who was guilty of murder,  
And he handed them Jesus to keep law and order!  
Then the soldiers, they carried Lord Jesus away,  
They found someone to carry His cross on its way,  
So that he behind Jesus did carry the cross  
While the women who knew Him were wailing their loss.  
Jesus turned to them and sadly said to those there  
That quite soon they would have much to dread and to fear!  
"For the days will soon come when the people will say  
Oh how lucky you are you've no children this day!  
They will say to the mountains: will YOU fall on us  
And they'll say to the hills: will you be hiding us?"**

**Also two wicked men were condemned to the cross,  
For the murders they'd done their own lives must be lost!  
They were taken with Jesus to be crucified  
When they'd got to the top: "It's the Skull!" they both cried.  
They put one on each side of the cross of Lord Jesus,  
That's how THEY had been placed for their chastisement grievous.  
When Lord Jesus was finally stretched on the tree,  
He then loudly cried out: "Forgive what you see!  
Because they do not know what they're doing at all!"  
With these words to His father he sent up the call!  
Then the soldiers, they thought Jesus' clothes would be nice,  
So to share them amongst them they tossed many dice.  
Jewish leaders who watched Him, they jeered at His plight,  
"He has saved many others, for Himself He can't fight!"  
All the soldiers they mocked Him and offered Him wine  
Saying: "If you are King of the Jews, then come down!"  
At His head were the words written: "King of the Jews"  
Which the soldiers on guard it did greatly amuse!  
One condemned criminal then thus shouted to Jesus:  
"If you are the Messiah, then why don't you save us?"  
But the other, rebuking, said: "Don't you fear God?  
Don't you see, you've received the same fate as His lot!  
It is true we deserve what we've got for our deed,  
But that Jesus no crime has committed indeed!"  
To Lord Jesus he said: "Think of me when you're King!"  
Jesus said: "This your faith to my Kingdom will bring!"**



**Then at twelve of the clock the whole sky went all dark  
And the Temple's large curtain was ripped all apart!  
Jesus then did cry out with His last dying breath:  
"To you, Father, I pass my own spirit in death!"  
With these words His last breath He had breathed and He died,  
"This indeed was a good man!", one soldier then cried.  
Then the people who'd watched, they went home in great sorrow,  
Since they knew not what would be in store on the morrow!**

**There was one man named Joseph from Arimethea,  
He was member of Council though God he did fear!  
He was not in agreement with all the Chief Priests  
For condemning Lord Jesus he thought they were beasts!  
He from Pilate then asked for the body of Jesus:  
"After all that's occurred it's the least you can grant us!"  
He then took Jesus down wrapping Him in a sheet,  
A new tomb carved from rocks would His body then greet.  
Then the women who followed, they too saw the grave,  
Bringing perfume and spices, as what they could save!  
It was then Friday night and the Sabbath begun,  
What a sad day of rest with so much to think on!**

## Luke 24.

Then the women on Sunday, they went to the grave  
When the sun in the sky enough light to them gave.  
With more perfume and spices that they had prepared,  
Walking slowly and weeping, their feelings all bared.  
When they reached the tomb's entrance, the rock was not there,  
It had been rolled away and they wondered who'd dare!  
So they ventured inside but the body was missing;  
They stayed there a while, all puzzled and thinking,  
When two MEN dressed in white stood before them and said:  
"Why look FOR one alive in a place for the dead?  
He's not here He's been raised, do recall what He said,  
That by some sinful men to His death He'd be led,  
But that on the third day He would rise up again"  
So it was they remembered His words only then!  
So they went for the other disciples to see  
For to tell them that Jesus alive now could be!  
But when they tried to tell them of that empty grave,  
"That's all nonsense!" was merely the answer they gave.  
But then Peter arose and went back to the tomb  
He saw only the grave clothes laid out in the gloom!  
He returned to his home, being greatly amazed,  
Thinking what might have happened, his head nearly crazed!

Two of Jesus' s followers walked on the road  
To the village Emmaus, which was near their abode.  
While they walked they discussed what of late had occurred  
Which in their saddened minds still did seem rather blurred!  
Then Lord Jesus, unrecognized, with them did walk  
And He asked them to tell Him of what they did talk.  
One of them, Cleopas, very sadly he asked:  
"What is it that this day your recall it has masked?  
Can you be the sole visitor who hasn't heard  
Of the dreadful events that our hearts have so hurt?"  
Jesus asked to be told what these sad things might be,  
"All the things that have happened to Jesus, you see?  
Jesus was a great prophet of wonderful deeds,  
In compassionate ways caring for others' needs!  
The Chief Priests got this prophet to be crucified  
Israel had been freed if this man hadn't died!  
You know, this dreadful thing happened three days ago  
This day some of His friends to the tomb tried to go  
But they told us the body was no longer there  
And some angels, they told them: 'Do not seek Him here!  
As He now has been raised as He's said to a few'

More of us went to check and found it was all true!"  
Jesus then said to them: "Oh! How foolish you are!  
Not believing the prophets your souls it might mar!  
The Messiah's life must be a suffering story  
This before He returns for to enter in glory."  
Thus Lord Jesus explained how the Scriptures foretold  
What would happen to Him, by the prophets of old.  
As they came to the village to which they were bound,  
Their unrecognized Jesus so helpful they'd found  
They said: "Stay with us, now it is starting to darken"  
As attentively to all His words they would hearken.  
He did stay with them and soon they sat down to eat,  
He broke bread and the two with a blessing did greet  
At which point recognition came to them at once,  
But then Jesus Himself in the mists did ensconce!  
They then said to each other how they'd felt the fire,  
As He told of the Scriptures their spirit rose higher .  
They went back to Jerusalem to find the eleven  
Who told: "Jesus is risen, He's returned now from Heaven!  
Simon Peter has told us to him He's appeared"  
"On the road to Emmaus, as the village we neared  
He did join us and spoke, we at first knew Him not,  
But when He broke the bread, we knew He was from God"  
While the two were thus speaking, the Lord, there He stood.  
He said: "Peace be with you!" and they all understood,  
Though they did think at first what they saw was a ghost,  
"Do not fear!" Jesus said, "You can now be my host!"  
"Tell me, why are those doubts coming into your minds,  
Feel my hands! My own flesh and my bones are the signs  
That I'm not just a ghost but the Jesus you know,  
Come and feel so that in your own faith you can grow!"  
When they'd felt both His hands they still did not believe,  
"Give me something to eat, which your doubts will relieve!"  
Said Lord Jesus to them; they then gave Him some fish  
Which He took eating all that was placed in the dish!  
Then He said: "These are things I have told you before,  
It is all written in Prophet Moses' s law.  
What the prophets did write is now all coming true:  
The Messiah must suffer, I'd told it to you.  
Then returning to life three days later He'll rise  
Then repentance, forgiveness will be the new cries.  
You are witnesses of the events you have seen,  
When the Spirit descends, you'll know more what I mean.  
You must wait in the City till you have the power  
Which will come from above as a heavenly shower!"

**Then He led them away to a still country place  
Where He raised both His hands and He blessed them with grace.  
He departed up skywards to join with His Father  
The disciples then prayed for the Spirit to gather,  
Then they went to the Temple to God giving thanks,  
And they asked the Lord God that they'd never break ranks.**