

Jesus Loves Me

An Allegory:

Hi, my name is Ruth. As a child I lived next door to Mary in Nazareth. I remember my grandmother telling me all my life that Messiah was coming. I used to ask her who Messiah was. She would stop what she was doing and gather me in her arms and proceed to explain to me who Messiah was. She told me that Messiah was our promised savior. That he would come and set his people free. We all lived in anticipation of this day.

My father was an important man. He was one of the leaders in our temple. He knew all the laws of God by heart. He would make sure that we, his family, observed every one of them. It seemed rather confusing to me at the time.

One night not being able to fall asleep, I crept to the window and stood gazing out at the stars. Suddenly Mary's house began to glow. Strangely enough I wasn't frightened at all, but was rather in awe. Shortly after this night Mary got married to Joseph and they moved to the other side of town. ...

A couple of months later Mary's mother came over to visit us and shared the news that Mary had given birth to a son and they had named him Jesus. She also told us that Joseph, Mary and Jesus had moved away because some people were giving them a hard time.

A few years passed and the family moved back to town. Jesus and I spent many hours playing together. He was always so nice and fun to be around. As Jesus grew up he seemed to have a special ability to learn the law and the prophets easily. When he was 12 he got in big time trouble when he disappeared from his folks and ended up in the temple discussing the law with the elders of the temple. My father just about had a heart failure, he was so upset. I personally thought he was over reacting.

From that day forward Jesus continued to teach and to preach and basically being a burr under the saddle of the elders. He was teaching things that at face value seemed to be contradictory to the law. By the time he was in his early

thirties he was being called a heretic and was being accused of blasphemy.

I used to go hear him teach when he was close. I happened to be walking by the kitchen and actually saw him change water into wine at the wedding feast. I remember thinking to myself, "How did he do that?"

One day I was told that he had been arrested and condemned to die. I was among the crowd that watched as he struggled under the weight of that cross — already weak from the scourging he took. I followed the crowd up to Golgotha and watched as they hammered big old long spikes through his hands and his feet to secure him to the cross.

I was close enough to hear him say to the thief hanging beside him, "*Today you will be with me in Paradise.*" Then in a loud voice he cried, "*IT IS FINISHED!*" And then he died.

My Story:

My name is also Ruth. I grew up listening to folks talk about God and Jesus. I grew up with people who you are supposed to be able to trust, abusing that trust. I grew up hearing people talk about sin and the love of God on Sunday and then abusing me during the week. I grew up believing that I was unlovable even by God. For surely had I been loved by God, His *anointed ones* would not have abused me. I had no problem believing that God loved other people, but not me.

After I grew up and left home another group of God's people began to love me. I remember many times doing and saying things just to see if they would turn their back on me. Thank God they didn't. It took many years for these people to undo the damage of those who had gone before.

In December, 1997, God broke through the rest of the wall I had built. He washed me from head to toe, inside and out, with His LOVE, with the precious blood of Jesus.

~ Ruthie Richards
McPherson, Texas, USA

More ...

Blessed Loving Lord,

Sometimes it is hard for us to recognize even Your love in the midst of all that the world around us forces into our lives. We look so hard to see someone, anyone who would walk with us on our journey. We know the truth of "scarcely even for a righteous person would another dare to die." And yet, Your Gift not only arrived on Christmas, He demonstrated Your love through His death and the power of His resurrection. Help me to know that it is for me. Amen. ~ Ruthie

Jesus Loves Me



*Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.*

Chorus 1:

*Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me."*

Chorus 1

*Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live.*

Chorus 1

*Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.*

Chorus 1

*Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee.*

Chorus 1

*Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He washes away my sin,
Letting His little child come in.*

Chorus 1

*Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way.
Thou hast bled and died for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee.*

Chorus 1

*I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus likes to hear me say,
That I love Him every day!*

Chorus 2:

*Yes, I love Jesus!
Yes, I love Jesus!
Yes, I love Jesus!
Because He first loved me.*

*Now you've heard the true story,
How Jesus died for you and me.
Accept Him in your heart today,
Then in heaven with Him you'll stay!*

Chorus 3:

*Yes Jesus loves me,
Yes Jesus loves me,
Yes Jesus loves me,
So much, He died for me.*

*Jesus loves me this I know
And I pray to Him alone.
And His light shines through in me
For all God's people to see!*

Chorus 1

*Jesus loves you, you should know,
The Bible has been telling you so.
The truth is that he has died for you
Many many years ago.*

Chorus 6:

*Yes, Jesus loves you.
Yes, Jesus loves you.
Yes, Jesus loves you.
For the Bible tells you so.*

*Jesus hears the prayers I groan,
Speaks for me at our God's throne;
His love helps me to comply,
Yes, the Lord is my supply.*

Chorus 1

*Jesus loves all men, even thee,
Hates the sin, but still loves ye;
Call Him Lord, and seek His grace.
Come to Him and know His grace.*

Chorus 1

FOR "OLDER" KIDS:

*Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow,
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in him.*

Chorus 1

*Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go.
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.*

Chorus 1

*Though I am no longer young,
I have much which He's begun.
Let me serve Christ with a smile,
Go with other's the extra mile.*

Chorus 1

*When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."*

Chorus 1

*When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.*

Chorus 1:

*Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*