

“Jesus Loves Me”

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

A. The History - This popular song has been loved among children and adults alike since it was written in 1860. Anna B. Warner wrote the original version and later David Rutherford McGuire added stanzas two and three. Anna's sister Susan had asked her to write a song for a Bible class teacher who wanted to cheer up a dying boy. No wonder the lyrics have brought a smile to many children and assurance to adults! The song first appeared in a novel, *Say and Seal*. In 1862, William B. Bradbury composed the music and added the refrain. It was used by denominational missionaries in China and quickly became a favorite of children there, primarily due to the melody and rhythm having an Asian flavor. The song has been much modified over the years to the form that we have it in our hymnals today. The following are the original lyrics to the song as published in 1862:

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.

Refrain:

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.'
(Repeat Refrain)

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

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

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.
(Repeat Refrain)

Jesus loves me! Loves me still,
Though I'm very weak and ill,
That I might from sin be free
Bled and died upon the tree.
(Repeat Refrain)

(Note: this stanza from the original is commonly omitted in most hymnals)

I. JESUS LOVES ME IS SOUND BIBLE TEACHING

- A. The song "Jesus Loves Me" claims Christ's devotion to me, but how can that be true? As a sinner, wouldn't a holy God despise me?
 - 1. Rom. 5:6-10
- B. The song is not a hopeful delusion but rather sound, biblical doctrine. While God hated my sin, His love for me compelled Him to do what He could to remove that barrier between us.
- C. Jesus, God the Son, loved us so much He died a terrible death to pay the just penalty for our sins - John 3:16

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

II. THE SCRIPTURES BEHIND THE SONG

- A. Jesus loved His disciples - John 15:9-17, 17:23-26
 - 1. His love was not a passing affection but an abiding, self-sacrificing devotion.
 - 2. Moreover, the context of the passage reinforces that we His future disciples are loved by Jesus. He calls us His friends.
- B. Jesus loves children - Mark 10:13-16
 - 1. Jesus cursed those who would harm or mislead children - Matt. 18:5-6

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

- C. Paul's witness - Rom. 8:31-39; Eph. 3:17-19
- D. John's witness - 1John 4:7-19
- E. "Jesus Loves Me" is a song for all of God's children to sing, from the innocence of 18 months to the world weary of 108 years. Sing it in faith.