

Sunday School

May 3, 2009

COME

Ps 95:1 O COME, LET US SING UNTO THE LORD: LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION.

Come:

- **Come unto the Lord**
- **Let us Sing unto the Lord**
- **Let us make a Joyful Noise unto Him**
- **To the Lord the Rock of Our Salvation**

The strong Fortress in which we have always found safety, and the Source where we have always received help for our souls.

I. Word of Invitation

- a. Come humbly “unto” the Lord for Salvation
95:1, 2, 6; (96:8)
- b. Come “to” worship faithfully

II. Words of Dedication

- a. “Let us sing unto the Lord”
- b. “Let us make a Joyful noise to the Rock of our Salvation”

III. Phrases for Unity of the Spirit and Unity of the Faith

- a. “Let us”-“Let us”
- b. “Let us sing”
to shout (usually for joy):--aloud for joy, cry out, be joyful (greatly, make to) rejoice, (cause to) shout (for joy), (cause to) sing (aloud, for joy, out), triumph.
- c. “Let us make a Joyful noise”
to mar (especially by breaking); figuratively, to split the ears (with sound), i.e. shout (for alarm or joy):--blow an alarm, cry (alarm, aloud, out), destroy, make a joyful noise, smart, shout (for joy), sound an alarm, triumph.

IV. Revelation of the Rock of Our Salvation

- a. The Rock was smitten
- b. The Rock followed them
- c. Jesus is the Rock of our Salvation
- d. Jesus is the Stone that the builders rejected.

“Come ... For He Cometh”

Ps 96:13 Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

I go to the Rock

I go to the Rock of my Salvation, I go to the Stone that the builders rejected, I run to the mountain and the mountain stands by me, when all around me is sinking sand on Christ the solid Rock I stand when I need a shelter when I need a friend I go to the Rock

He's my Rock My Sword my shield He's the wheel in the middle of the wheel , He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul, well He makes me laugh and He makes me cry sets my sinful soul on fire when God dipped His Love in my heart

**He's my Rock, He's my shield, He's my fortress , my Deliverer,
The God of my strength.**

"Rock Of Ages"---336

One of the "Jubilee Singers," a student of Fisk University, was on board a steamer that took fire. He was fixing a life-preservers on himself and his wife. But in the agony of despair, when all *on board were trying to save themselves, someone took her life-preserver, so that she found herself holding on to her husband in the waters.* And she clung to her husband, placing her hands firmly on his shoulders as he swam on. After a while her strength was exhausted. "I can hold on no longer," was her cry. "Try a little longer," was her husband's agonized entreaty; and then he added, "Let us sing 'Rock of Ages.'" Immediately they both began faintly to sing; and their strains fell upon the ears of many around them, while they were thus seeking to comfort each other. One after another of the nearly-exhausted swimmers were noticed raising their head above the waves and joining in the song as a prayer:

Strength came with the song; and they were able to hold out a little longer, still faintly singing. A boat was seen approaching, and they did get strength enough to keep themselves afloat 'til the crew lifted them on board. And this hymn helped to save more than one from death by the sea, as it has often helped to save souls ready to perish.

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

The author and composer of this hymn, Helen H. Lemmel, relates that one day, in 1918, a missionary friend gave her a tract entitled "Focused." The pamphlet contained these words: "So then, turn your eyes upon Him, look full into His face and you will find that the things of earth will acquire a strange new dimness."

These words made a deep impression upon Helen Lemmel. She could not dismiss them from her mind. She recalls this experience following the reading of that tract:

"Suddenly, as if commanded to stop and listen, I stood still, and singing in my soul and spirit was the chorus, with not one conscious moment of putting word to word to make rhyme, or note to note to make melody. The verses were written the same week, after the usual manner of composition, but none the less dictated by the Holy Spirit."

"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"

Mrs. William Stillman Martin had experienced the protecting hand of the Lord during an illness. The incident was so precious to her that she wrote the song, "God Will Take Care of You."

Once she visited a friend, and related her story and hoping in some way to help relieve the friend's depressed state. After hearing the story, the friend said, "You know, I shouldn't worry, should I? We are promised in the Bible that God watches over the little sparrows." They then had a little time of rejoicing over God's wonderful watchful care and protection.

When she arrived home, Mrs. Martin sat down and penned the song:

Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely,
And long for heav'n and home,

When Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is He;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me,

His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

"All Hail the Power"---21

This hymn is often called the "National Anthem of Christendom." This text has been translated into almost every language where Christianity is known; and wherever it is sung, it communicates to the spiritual needs of human hearts. One writer has said, "So long as there are Christians on earth, it will continue to be sung; and after that, in heaven."

Edward Perronet the writer became a minister in the Anglican Church but soon broke from the Church and threw himself strenuously into the evangelistic endeavors of the Wesley's during the 1740s and 1750s.

It was during this time that the Wesley's and their followers suffered much persecution and even violence from those who disagreed with their ministry.

John Wesley wrote in a letter that from Rockdale we went to Bolton and found the men there in Bolton like lions compared to the men in Rockdale. Edward Perronet was thrown down and rolled in the mud and mire, they through stones and broke windows.

But once when John Wesley announced to a congregation that Edward Perronet would preach at the next service.

Perronet mounted the pulpit but quickly explained that he had never consented to preach. "However," he added, "I shall deliver the greatest sermon that has ever been preached on earth." He then read the Sermon on the Mount and sat down without comment.

Eventually, Perronet's strong-mindedness and free spirit caused a break with the Wesleys.

Though Perronet wrote many other hymns and forms of poetry, most of which he published anonymously, this is his only work to survive.

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!

An unusual song written by Elmo Mercer in a very dark time of his young life

Each step I take my Savior goes before me,
And with His loving hand He leads the way,
And with each breath I whisper "I adore Thee,"
Oh, what joy to walk with Him each day.

Hymns And Actual Life

We sing "Sweet hour of prayer" and content ourselves with ten minutes;

We sing "O for a thousand tongues to sing" and don't rightly use the one we have;

We sing "Blest be the tie that binds" and let the least little offense sever it;

We sing "I love to tell the story" and never mention it all year;

We sing "Cast thy burden on the Lord" and worry ourselves sick;

We sing "The whole wide world for Jesus" and never invite for church our next door neighbors;

We sing "Throw out the life line" and throw out a fishing line.

"Fill My Cup, Lord"

Richard Blanchard was left with one-third of his lung capacity. But a diminished physical well-being did not stop young Blanchard.

In 1953, he became the pastor of a church in Coral Gables, Florida, and one day, was asked by a young couple to perform their marriage ceremony. However, the couple was quite late for their counseling appointment.

Richard Blanchard told his secretary, "I will wait for thirty minutes and I'm leaving." He then went to a nearby Sunday school room and sat down to play the piano for a while.

He later said, "When I was not in the mood to be used of God, God used me." In less than thirty-minutes, as he waited for the young couple, God gave him the inspiring song "Fill My Cup, Lord."

At the Cross---84

On one occasion John Vassar, the great soul winner, was going from house to house distributing tracts and talking with people about their souls. One woman who heard about this strange man and what he was doing said: "If he comes to my house, he will get the door slammed in his face." Without knowing that this woman had made such a statement, Mr. Vassar rang her doorbell the next day. When she saw that he was the man who had been described to her, she slammed the door in his face. John Vassar sat down on her doorstep and sang:

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe,
Here, Lord, I give myself away;
'Tis all that I can do.

The woman heard the earnest verse as he sang and was convicted as a sinner. She opened the door and called Mr. Vassar in, who led her to Jesus Christ.

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**Ps 62:6 He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my
defence;
I shall not be moved.**

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL: ---316

In the Garden: ---304

Jesus Loves Me:

"All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name"---21

Rev. E. P. Scott was a missionary to India. One day he saw on the street a man of so strange an appearance that he inquired about him, and learned that he belonged to a wild mountain tribe among whom Christ had never been preached.

Mr. Scott prayed over the matter, and decided to visit that tribe. As soon as he reached their mountain home, he fell in with a savage band who were on a war expedition. They seized him, and pointed their spears at his heart.

At once the missionary drew out the violin that he always carried with him, and began to play and sing in the native language, "*All hail the power of Jesus' name!*" He closed his eyes, expecting death at any minute.

When he reached the third stanza, as nothing had happened, he opened his eyes, and was amazed to see that the spears had fallen from the hands of the savages, and big tears were in their eyes!

They invited Mr. Scott to their homes, and he spend two and a half year among them, winning many of them to Christ.

—Amos Wells

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"---12

Of the many gospel hymns written on the theme of God's goodness and faithfulness, this hymn stands out like a beacon of light. While many hymns are born out of a particular dramatic experience, this hymn was simply the result of the author's morning by morning realization of God's personal faithfulness.

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm was born in a log cabin in Kentucky. Without the benefit of high school or advanced training, he began his career as a school teacher at the age of sixteen, in the same country schoolhouse where he had received his elementary training.

When he was twenty-one, he became the associate editor of his home town weekly newspaper, *The Franklin Favorite*. Six years later he accepted Christ as his personal Savior during a revival meeting.

Later Chisholm was ordained to the Methodist ministry but was forced to resign after a brief pastorate because of poor health. Chisholm retired in 1953 and spent his remaining years at the Methodist Home for the Aged, in Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

In a letter dated 1941, Mr. Chisholm wrote,

"My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me until now, although I must not fail to record the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness."

"Because He Lives"

In the late 1960s, while expecting their third child, Bill and Gloria Gaither were going through a rather traumatic time in their lives. Bill was recovering his strength from a bout with mononucleosis. They, along with their church, were the objects of accusation and belittlement. Gloria was experiencing a time of torment, including fear of the future and of bringing children into such a crazy, mixed-up world.

As Gloria sat alone in a darkened living room, tormented, and fearful, the Lord sent a calm and peaceful rest to her. The power of the resurrection of Christ seemed to affirm itself in their lives once again. Gloria remembers the realization that "it was LIFE conquering death in the regularity of my day." The joy seemed to overcome and take precedent over frightening human circumstances.

And the song "Because he lives" came out of their personal bout with darkness:

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord" ---347

A simple expression, prayed by an elderly woman at a prayer meeting one night, was the source of inspiration that prompted the writing of this popular consecration hymn, "*Have Thine Own Way, Lord*," in 1902.

The author of this hymn text, Adelaide A. Pollard, was herself experiencing "distress of soul" during this time. It appears that it was a period in her life when she had been unsuccessful in raising funds to make a desired trip to Africa for missionary service.

In this state of discouragement, she attended a little prayer meeting one night and was greatly impressed with the prayer of an elderly woman, who omitted the usual requests for blessings and things, and simply petitioned God for an understanding of His will in life.

Upon returning home that evening, Miss Pollard mediated on the story of the potter, found in Jeremiah

18:3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

Before retiring that evening, Adelaide Pollard completed the writing of all four stanzas of this hymn as it is sung today.

—Kenneth Osbeck