

Jesus Loves Me...

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When I was a young boy, I loved spending time with my grandparents. They had a group of friends affectionately known as “The Over the Hill Gang.” They would get together on the weekends and play country music. They played songs like “I Overlooked an Orchid” and “Heartaches by the Number.” I would often tag along with my grandparents for these jams. Today, I still play those old songs.

Of all the songs I remember as a child, though, the first one I can recall hearing was not a classic country hit. The first song I can remember singing was “Jesus Loves Me.” We typically associate this song with children. This is for good reason.

Jesus Loves Me was written by Ann B. Warner. In 1860, the lyrics were first published in a book of poems compiled by Anna’s sister, Susan. The poem was set to music in 1862 by William Bradbury. He also added the familiar chorus. While the song is happily remembered as a children’s song, it was written to comfort a dying child.

Jesus Loves Me is a wonderful song, especially when sung by children. The song teaches important truths about Jesus. It helps to shape their hearts and hopes to guide them to faith in adulthood.

Lessons from “Jesus Loves Me”

1). Jesus loves me. We teach our children all sorts of things. We want to educate them about life in the world. We want to protect them from danger and show them how to lead a productive life. What better lesson could we teach them than *Jesus loves me*?

The love of Jesus has been shown to us in many forms. Perhaps we think of Jesus leaving Heaven and coming to earth. This was an act of love for us. Maybe we think of Jesus healing the sick. He cared for people. He cared for forgotten people. Of course, the love of Jesus is most dramatically shown through His death: Jesus loves me...He who died.

2). This I know. Why do we teach our children that Jesus loves them? Why do we tell them the story of His life, ministry, death, and resurrection? So that they would know. “This I know” is a confident profession of faith. We want our children to know Jesus. We want our children to believe in Jesus. We want our children to trust Jesus.

3). For the Bible tells me so. Jesus Loves Me is an emotionally charged song. It considers the self-giving love of Jesus towards a dying child. But it is also a confident profession of faith. This faith is based on what the Bible says. This song encourages our children to read and trust the Bible.

Our children are living in the information age. They are growing up with access to information at an unprecedented level. They have Chromebooks, iPads, and cell phones. They are impacted by the information they read, true or not. As parents, we must instill the value of the Bible in their hearts and minds. The Scriptures will wisely guide them to salvation in Jesus (2 Tim. 3:16).

Lessons from “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

“Jesus Loves Me” is a beautiful song that teaches fundamental truths about the love of Jesus. The truth of Jesus’ love is intended to elicit a response from us. As we grow in our understanding of Jesus’ love, we will grow in our love for Him. The song, “My Jesus, I Love Thee” is a song for the mature.

1). For thee all the follies of sin I resign. The singer of this song is overwhelmed by the self-giving love of Jesus. The response of the singer is repentance. The love of Jesus is designed to change us. We accept that our sins crucified Jesus and resolve to stop sinning.

2). I love thee because thou first loved me. Who loves more...the parent or the child? Of course, the parent loves the child more than the child loves the parent. This is the natural order of things. Love began with God. He made us and redeemed us through His Son, Jesus (1 John 4:19). He loved us even when we did not love Him.

3). I will love thee in life, I will love thee in death. The love of Jesus that purchased our pardon elicits loyalty. Jesus gave all to save us. We must give our all to Jesus. The third verse of this song is about lifelong commitment to Jesus. The apostle Paul captured this when he wrote, “or the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised” (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

4). If ever I loved thee, my Jesus tis now. The last verse of this song looks beyond the grave. It envisions saints worshipping around the throne of God and the Lamb. In the song, love is the consistent element carried through each verse. This was by careful design. God is love. We were made from love and for love. Love is the only reason. Love is the bridge into God’s new world. Love is all that will last (1 Cor. 13).

Conclusion

As parents, let us remain committed to teaching our children about the love of Jesus. Let us use the Bible to lead our children to trust their loving Savior. To assist in this task, may the love of Jesus change us. May we resolve to live a life of faithfulness. May we turn from the foolishness of sin and seek to live a righteous life.