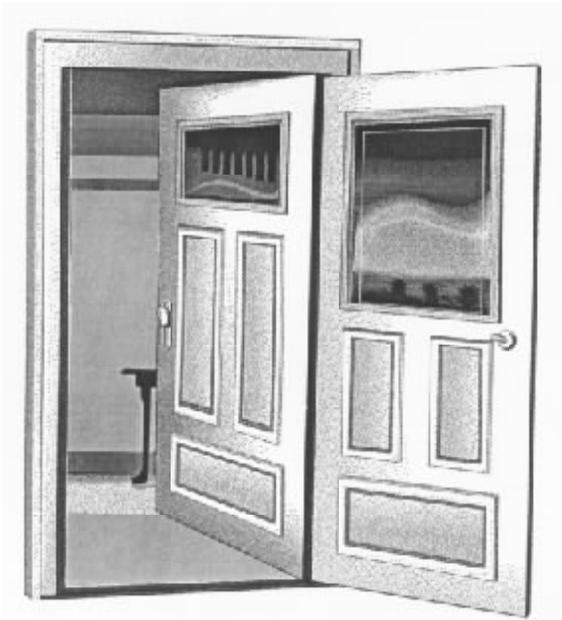


7

*If Anyone  
Opens  
The Door*





*If anyone hears my  
voice and opens  
the door,  
I will come in and  
eat with him  
and he with me.*

Revelation 3:20

## Only God

No one but God could make a plan  
like for our Savior's birth  
And have it orchestrated right  
when He came down to earth.  
The governor imposed a tax  
that everyone must pay  
So people were all hurrying  
to get well on their way.

And Joseph led a donkey,  
a lowly beast, you know,  
To an Inn where they could spend the night  
and then get up and go.  
And Mary, who was great with child,  
was anxious to lie down  
And kinda' get a breather  
in that sleepy little town.

To think the Inn was full that night  
and with no place to go  
They were allowed to spend the night  
in a stable down below.  
Of course you know the story well  
that Christ was born that day  
And Joseph filled a manger  
with some nearby straw and hay.

*. . . and she gave birth to her first born,  
a son. She wrapped him in clothes and  
placed him in a manger because there was no  
room for them in the Inn. Luke 2:6,7*



No one who stayed inside the Inn  
had offered them their room,  
It seems they were too busy  
with their own stuff, I presume.  
I really like that shepherds  
were the first to make it there  
Because a choir of angels sang  
and told them when and where

They'd find the place where Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God, was born,  
And sure enough they found the place  
on that first Christmas morn.  
God didn't send his Son, you know,  
to folks who reeked with fame,  
He sent Him to the common folks  
who'd be so glad He came.

So if you're rich or if you're poor,  
and have an empty cup  
Just give your heart to Jesus Christ.  
He'd love to fill it up.

## *Zacchaeus*

Sometimes I think of Zacchaeus  
who climbed up in a tree  
For he was just a little man  
and Christ he could not see  
Because the crowd of bigger folks  
were walking in his way  
And that is just exactly why  
he climbed a tree that day.

I think its neat he ran ahead  
and climbed a sycamore,  
Apparently he'd never seen  
how Jesus looked before.

Zacchaeus was a wealthy man  
and was not liked a lot  
For he collected taxes  
cheating folks right on the spot.  
It could be that he took off work  
on this one special day  
And had determined in his heart  
he'd see the Lord some way.

And in my mind's eye I can see  
him run that dusty trail  
Then shimmy up the sycamore—  
he'd see Christ without fail.



And sure enough when Jesus came  
he called him by his name  
And after he had met the Lord  
he never was the same.

He said that he would give the poor  
a half of all his stuff  
And also added something more,  
as if that weren't enough--  
He said if he had cheated folks  
he'd pay 'em back fourfold  
But that is not the end of it  
for after that we're told  
That Jesus would have lunch with him,  
He'd be his honored guest  
And so this little man was changed  
to one whose heart was blest.

*Luke 19:1-10*

## *Mary*

If you've ever had a baby  
    you no doubt had gone by car  
And checked in at a hospital  
    which wasn't very far.

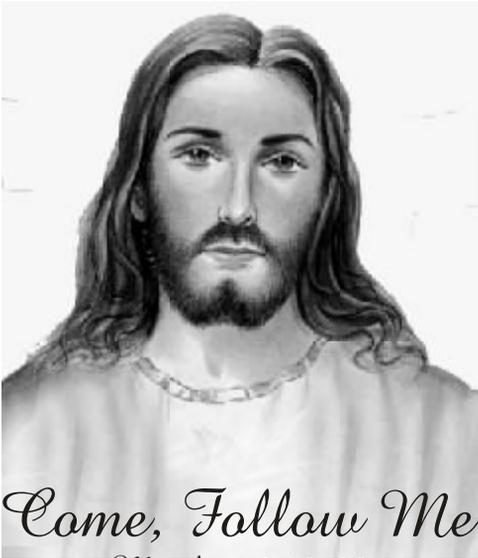
The doctor and the nurse in charge  
    did the admission stuff  
And put you in a nice clean bed  
    and gave you meds enough  
To help you through the labor pains  
    until your child was born  
And then you got to see your babe,  
    though you were tired and worn.

I wonder if you've thought about  
    how Mary, great with child  
Could travel many weary miles  
    and still be meek and mild  
When they would come up to the Inn  
    where she could get some rest  
And find the place was all filled up,  
    though Joseph did his best.

I wonder just what Mary thought—  
do you think that she sighed  
When she lay on a bed of straw, and  
maybe even cried?  
I doubt she had much stuff along to  
make a cozy place—  
She must have prayed to God a lot  
to give her strength and grace.  
Who ever thought this humble place  
would welcome such a Guest  
Who truly is the King of kings, the  
Best of all the best.



*Luke 2:4-7*



*Matthew 4:18-20*

I often think how Jesus called  
His disciples here on earth,  
He didn't question them and ask  
Just how much they were worth,  
Nor did he hand out questionnaires  
With pages to fill out  
And ask for several references  
To check them out, no doubt.  
He didn't discuss benefits;  
There was no dotted line  
Where if they measured up OK  
A contract they would sign.  
He didn't ask about their past  
Nor for a resume  
He simply said, "Come, follow Me,"  
And it 's like that today.  
Christ is still saying, "Follow Me,"  
And if we hear His voice  
And follow Him where e'er He leads  
He'll make our hearts rejoice.

*Christ  
Loved  
Kids*



I wonder if you've thought about  
why Christ loved children so.  
Was it because their little hearts  
have lots of love, you know?  
They don't have stuff like sin and hate  
stored up inside their heart  
So they can kinda' be themselves  
which really is quite smart.

Some older folks with lots of clout  
may put on lots of airs,  
But Jesus cuts right through that stuff  
because He really cares.  
Christ tells us in the Bible  
that we should all become  
Like children with their simple trust  
and love for every one.

I'm sure the Lord likes simple faith  
that has no fear or doubt  
For He likes folks who trust in Him  
right from the inside out.  
So copy little children  
in the love they shed abroad  
For Jesus says to live that way  
till we're at home with God.

## *Just As We Are*

If you are out of work, my friend,  
And need a job to do,  
You may look several places  
That you think appeal to you.

Of course they'll want a resume  
Of where you worked before,  
They'll also want an interview  
When you walk through their door.

You've got to look quite classy  
Just to meet the standards there,  
And so you gussy up a bit,  
Might even curl your hair.

So if you can impress the folks  
Who work in personnel  
It may be you will land a job  
Because you look so well.

But that is not the way with God,  
He takes us as we are,  
We don't fill out a questionnaire  
Though we're not up to par.



St. Peter will not ask us  
For a lengthy interview,  
God simply wants a humble heart  
That He can make anew.

He takes the sick, the blind, the lame,  
And those who cannot cope,  
No matter if they're rich or poor  
He offers them some hope.

He never leaves us as we are  
If we give Him our heart,  
He changes us from what we were  
Right from the very start.

## *Still Speaking*

God is still speaking, friend of mine,  
He hasn't left us here  
To travel on life's road alone—  
in fact He's always near.  
But if you want to hear Him  
and see things that He has done  
You've gotta' get your heart in tune  
and not stay on the run.

God speaks to us through sunsets,  
and through a gentle breeze,  
He also speaks through flowers,  
the singing birds, and trees.  
The Bible says He's everywhere  
so if you'd look a bit  
You really might find it is true  
if you'll just think on it.



Sometimes God speaks in special ways  
that tells us of His power  
When thunder rolls and lightning comes  
and skies pour down a shower.  
At other times we feel God speak  
in quiet gentle ways  
And somehow comes and fills our cup  
with music and with praise.

Some folks will say there is no God  
or that He's far away  
And so they took off their list  
and seldom ever pray.  
But happy are the many folks  
who feel God is their Friend  
And hold to His unchanging Hand  
until the very end.



## *My Kitchen Window*

I like my kitchen windows  
    where I can see outside.  
It's fun to watch the neighbors  
    when they go out for a ride.  
Or maybe some will take a walk  
    escorted by their dog  
And some are really in good shape  
    and find it fun to jog.

At times I see some other things—  
    some birds go flying by  
I guess they want some stuff to eat  
    and so they really try.  
Some butterflies might make the scene  
    and add a touch of class,  
A friendly neighbor might drop in.  
    I'm glad they didn't pass.

The clouds intrigue me quite a bit—  
    the white against the blue  
And sunsets add great color  
    and we enjoy that, too.  
It blows my mind to wonder how  
    God made the things He made  
Including lots of flowers and trees  
    for beauty and for shade.

Another thing I like to watch  
    are lizards on the screen  
They travel 90 miles an hour  
    if you know what I mean.

Our God created everything  
that's found on planet earth  
He didn't make some junky stuff,  
but made all things of worth.

Yes, I like my kitchen windows  
so I can see outdoors--  
It's much more interesting to me  
than news of floods and wars.  
So if you'd spend some worthwhile time  
pull up your kitchen chair  
And enjoy all the beauty  
that is waiting for you there.



*The  
Greatest*



*Jesus*

Whoever thought that  
Jesus Christ  
born in a stable dim  
Would spend His life  
in healing folks  
if they believed in Him?



The common people loved Him much  
and liked the words He spoke,  
He spent a lot of time with them  
though some were sick and broke.

Whoever thought this Son of God  
who changed folks life so much  
Would some day be hung on a cross  
by some who felt His touch.  
But even greater, who would think  
that this unusual Man  
Would change the world forever  
as no other person can?

And now each time we write the date  
it points to Jesus' birth,  
For He's the greatest Person  
who has lived on planet earth.

*Today in the City of David a Savior  
has been born to you, He is Christ the Lord  
Luke 2:11*

## *Unconditional Love*



God's love is unconditional,  
His heart is open wide  
To any who'll believe in Him  
and want His love inside.  
His eyes are searching everywhere  
on planet earth, you know,  
For folks who want to serve Him here  
and then to Heaven go.

There is no case too hard for Him,  
no heart He cannot touch  
If folks will give their heart to Him  
and really love Him much.  
God's love is unconditional,  
but we must do our part  
And tell Him we invite Him in  
to live within our heart.

*Just: "Follow Me"*

When Christ called His disciples  
He didn't tell them then  
That he was making up a group  
of very special men.  
He didn't ask where they were born  
or of their family tree,  
He only said just two short words,  
and that was "Follow Me."

He could have questioned every man  
and learned a lot of stuff  
But all He said were those two words  
And that seemed to be enough.  
We can complicate religion  
with all our don'ts and do's  
And kinda' fail to follow Christ  
because of things we choose.

If we love God with all our heart,  
our body, soul and mind  
It truly is to follow Christ  
and gives us peace of mind.  
I really like the way that Christ  
said simply "Follow Me"  
And folks who do that very thing  
are happy and set free.

*As he walked along, he saw  
Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at  
the tax collectors booth. "Follow  
me" Jesus told him. And Levi  
got up and followed him.*

*Mark 2:14*

