

Devotion by Richard Lam given in a prayer meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Matt 11:<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.  
<sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.



We are flawed individuals. Hard as we try, we are incapable of attaining perfection. We think dark thoughts, make bad decisions, hurt the people we love, and turn a blind eye to the suffering of others. However, there is a certain measure of goodness and morality in the hearts of all people because we are made in God's image.

But, we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

Charlotte Elliot (1789–1871), an English poet and hymn writer, was an invalid. During her illness, a well-known preacher, Dr. Malan, came to visit her. He asked her if she had peace with God. At that time she was depressed and was struggling with feelings of uselessness and unworthiness. In spite of being raised in a Christian home, she had conflicts and doubts and was unsure of her relationship with Christ. She resented the question, but after reflecting on it for days she called Dr. Malan and apologized. She said she needed time to clean up her life before she could become a Christian.

Dr. Malan answered, "Come just as you are." She gave her life to Christ that day.

Years later at age 45, Charlotte remembered these words and wrote the hymn "Just As I Am". In it are her words of assurance about Jesus loving her just as she was.

Dr. Billy Graham wrote that the Graham team used this hymn in almost every one of their crusades. He said it presented "the strongest possible Biblical basis for the call of Christ." This hymn is said to touch more hearts and influenced more people for Christ than any other song ever written.

The hymn is an amazing legacy for an invalid woman who suffered from depression and felt useless to God's service. Christ invites us into his presence just as are: broken, imperfect and flawed. He said, "For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9:13). In Matthew 11:28-30, He invites all: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Christ

invites all men to himself, just as they are. He promises that no one who comes to him will be rejected.

Are you in need of relief and rest from life's burdens? Christ's invitation promises rest. He invites you, just as you are. It does not matter whether you're weary, burdened or troubled. He simply says, "Come."

Charlotte Elliott

## Just As I Am

Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee Whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.