

Nursery Rhymes

I visited a church a couple of weeks ago and the preacher used the first words of this Nursery Rhyme for his message “Mary had a little Lamb”, I loved the outcome so I have pinched the idea from him to finish it off!

*Mary had a little lamb its fleece was white as snow;
And everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go.
It followed her to school one day, which was against the rule;
It made the children laugh and play, to see a lamb at school.
And so the teacher turned it out, but still it lingered near,
And waited patiently about till Mary did appear.
“Why does the lamb love Mary so?” the eager children cry;
“Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know” the teacher did reply.*

Mary did have a lamb, it was the Lamb of God - Jesus! As the preacher said, it was very obvious that Mary was pregnant, imagine her walking around 7 months pregnant, everyone knew she was carrying Jesus, maybe they didn't know it was the Messiah but they knew even in the early stages there was something different about Mary, she glowed not to mention she wasn't married!!! Our lives, everywhere we go, people should say, there is something different about you, are we carrying Jesus inside us? Can people see we are different? The fleece of the lamb was white as snow, The Bible tells us that Jesus blood or the blood of the lamb cleanses us from all sin and cleanses us whiter than snow! **Ps 51v7; Is 1v18**; In Isaiah it talks about us obeying the teachings of the Lord and we shall be whiter than snow.

The second line of the verse tells us that everywhere that Mary went the Lamb was sure to go. Does the Lamb of God go with you everywhere, is it a sure thing in your life, in my life, why was this verse written, maybe because it was so evident, the lamb was extremely white, maybe moreso than other lambs, it stood out from the pack, do we stand out from the pack? It followed her to school one day which was against the rules? Uhoh, here comes trouble now! Do we follow rules and traditions of man, the ancient way of doing things or do we allow Jesus to come along and really throw a spanner in the works? Do we stand up for righteousness and holiness or do we just let the wolves do and say as they please?

When we allow Jesus to follow us around, his joy, his peace, his love touches people and it should cause them to laugh and play, the world is our school yard of life, but we should be the difference in that school yard, we should be the one where everyone else comes running to us and asking can I play with the Lamb too, people should see such joy and love in our lives that they want what we got! The lamb in the verse even though it was not allowed in the school, it still lingered near, I would imagine that every time it saw Mary it would bleat and run up to her and again the children would laugh and play, maybe it is not possible for us to allow Jesus to come into say the board room of a business meeting, but He should still be nearby, and if unrighteousness sticks its ugly head up, the lamb will bleat and we should stand up and be counted.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit, they wait for us patiently, just like the lamb, they wait until they are allowed or invited, the Holy Spirit is as gentle as a dove which is easily frightened, did you know, it is a fact that where a dove is frightened from it will never return to that spot! Jesus waits patiently for us to start talking about him, or sharing with someone our lives and how Jesus has changed it, then Jesus through the Holy Spirit begins to move on that person we are talking to.

The last two verses of the rhyme show us that the children ask why the lamb loves Mary so, in other words they saw the lamb acting special toward Mary, that is the same as with us and Jesus, he loves us, but we need to put both these verses together in our case or maybe twist it a little bit. See Jesus blesses us, people will ask why is God so good to you? Our reply or other peoples reply should be “didn't you know, they love Jesus, it is really evident they just can't stop talking about him, it is like they are on a honeymoon or something it is sickening”, or something to that effect. When we Love Jesus; When we Love on Jesus; When we truly adore him and look to him as our **Lord** as our **Saviour**, all he can do is bless us, he can't help himself.

I know some people who are extremely business minded with the things of God, they continually brag that God is blessing them and that they know God in a special way, they make out they know God more than most other Christians come to think of it, but when you look at their life, there is no fruit, **no love, no patience, no gentleness, no kindness, no meekness**, no fruit of the Spirit. Why? Like Mary in the verse, she

could have said “oh yes I have thousands of lambs at home”, she could have had her business of wool selling, providing jobs for others as shearers (wonder if she was an aussie) and other things pertaining to lambs and sheep. But no, Mary had “A” Little lamb, one lamb, everyone knew she had one lamb, all through history since Sarah Hale, of Boston, in 1830 wrote the poem and Thomas Edison first put it on a tin foil record, everyone since those days knows Mary only had one little lamb.

Mary and that little lamb had a special bond to each other. Maybe the Lamb even slept at the foot of the bed, does Jesus sleep at the foot of our bed, is he in our dreams, Mary would have talked to that lamb every day, telling it her inner most secrets, do we treat Jesus the same, is He our Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world like John the baptist declared? Mary didn't have a business partnership with that lamb, she had a personal relationship, that my friends is two different ships, one is a relation, the other is just a partner. Jesus has to have a relationship with us for him to work through us, he is not our partner in business, or finance, or anything at all, partnerships go sour, businesses go broke, people buy and sell partners, maybe Mary would have bought and sold sheep, but she still had one special one!

For the last 2000 years everyone has heard the gospel of the Lamb of God who had a mother who's name happened to be Mary. The Catholic church really blew it out of proportion getting people to worship mary, when really in life, Mary loved the lamb, even Jesus' mother knew he was the Son of God, he was the messiah, she would have loved him even moreso! Do those around you know that you are a Christian? At work, in the street, ya mates? If not, why not? There are many reasons people don't know we are Christians, but they all lead back to the very same scripture **Proverbs 29v25**. Mary didn't have any fear of her lamb following her to school, and obviously all her class mates enjoyed the visit too. Do we have any fears of taking Jesus into the streets, into our friends homes, our work place? Notice the story tells us that the people saw both Mary and the lamb! Not only mary, the lamb was not a figment of her imagination. We need to be transparent, people need Jesus or they will have an eternity of hell to look forward to.

Mary shared her lamb with those around her, we need to share Jesus with those around us, not by good works either, yes they are good, but words are better, even a simple “Jesus loves you” don't use the words God bless you as they have become a cliché and people don't even hear it these days, it goes in one ear and out the other. Tell people, “Jesus loves you” and take notice just how much attention it attracts, people will stop and think, maybe ask you how could he love a bum like me? There my friends is an open door to share the Lamb of God.