

# THE OLD, OLD STORY

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## *Easter Sunday – Selected Scripture*

### **Introduction:**

This morning I want to do something a bit different. I don't have a sermon for you, but I want to use a reading that takes us through the whole plan of God from creation to the resurrection. Then we will look at some passages from the Scriptures related to the resurrection.

But we begin this reading by singing two verses of Hymn # 424 - Tell Me the Old, Old Story.

#### **The Old, Old Story**

*(Music – Tell me the Old, Old Story)  
(1 verse, chorus, 1 verse)*

You ask me to tell you the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love?  
You want the old, old story and nothing else will do?  
Indeed! I do not wonder, it always seems so new.  
I often wish that someone would tell it to me each day.  
I never would get tired of what they had to say.  
But I am wasting moments. Oh! How shall I begin  
To tell the old, old story – How Jesus saves from sin?

Listen, and I will tell you. God help both you and me  
And make this wondrous story His message unto thee.

Once in a beautiful garden, God placed a happy pair,  
And all within was peaceful and all around was fair.  
But oh, they disobeyed Him. The one thing He denied,  
They longed for, took, and tasted; they ate it, and they died.  
Yet in His love and pity, the Lord at once declared  
That man – the lost and ruined – might after all be spared.  
For one of Eve's descendants, not sinful like the rest,  
Should spoil the work of Satan, and man be saved and blest.  
He should be son of Adam, but Son of God as well,  
And bring complete salvation from sin and death and hell.

*(No Music)*

Hundreds of years were over. Adam and Eve had died.  
And the following generation, and many more beside.

*(Music – Silent Night)*

At last some shepherds, watching beside their flock at night  
Were startled by a sudden, a strange and heavenly light.  
One of the holy angels had come from Heaven above  
To tell them of the story of Jesus and His love.  
He came to bring glad tidings. He said, "You need not, must not fear,  
For Christ your new-born Savior lies in village near."  
And many other angels took up the story then, singing  
"To God on High be glory, Goodwill and Peace to men."  
Was this story true? The shepherds hastened at once to see  
And found Him in a manger, and knew that it was He,  
He whom God to them had promised, so many ages past,  
Had come to save poor sinners, yes, He had come at last!

*(Music – Tell Me the Old, Old Story)*

'Twas His delight to do it; to seek and save the lost,  
Although He knew beforehand, knew all that it would cost.  
His last three years were lovely, He could no more be hid.  
But time and strength would fail me to tell you all He did.  
He gave away no money, for He had none to give,  
But He had power of healing, and made the dead to live!  
He did good things so kindly; it seemed His heart's delight  
To make poor people happy from morning until night.  
He heard each tale of sorrow with an attentive ear  
And took away each burden of suffering and of fear.  
He was a man of sorrows, and when He gave relief  
He gave it as a brother, acquainted with the grief.  
Such was the man Christ Jesus, the friend of sinful men.

*(Music – 'Tis Midnight and on Olive's Brow)*

But hush, the tale grows sadder, I'll tell it if I can.

This holy gentle Jesus, without a spot or stain  
By wicked hands was taken, and crucified, and slain.  
Look! Look! If you can bear it. Look at your dying Lord.  
Stand near the cross of suffering and change it for a crown.  
Why did He bear their mockings? Was He not Almighty God?  
Could He not have destroyed them with one almighty word?

Yes, Jesus could have done it, but let me tell you why,  
He would not use His power, but chose to stay and die.  
He had become our Surety, and what we could not pay  
He paid instead for us, on that one dreadful day.  
For you and me He suffered. 'Twas for our sins He died,  
But not for ours alone, but for the world beside.  
Now the work is finished, the sinner's debt is paid,  
Because on Christ the Righteous, the sin of all was laid.

*(Music – Tell Me the Old, Old Story)*

Wonderful redemption! God's remedy for sin.  
The door of heaven is open and we may enter in.  
For God released our Surety to show the work was done.  
And Jesus' resurrection declared the victory won.  
But when He left His people, He promised them to send  
A Comforter to keep us and guide us to the end.  
And this same holy Jesus is with us to this day  
And ready now to teach us the new and living way.  
Wonderful redemption! God's remedy for sin!  
The door of heaven is open, yes we may enter in.  
Full soon our eyes shall see Him, and in our Home above,  
We'll sing the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

What a story it is: that Jesus left heaven's glory and came to earth,  
to live with man. He gave his life in our stead, to die for our sin. After his  
death on the cross he was buried in a borrowed tomb. Let's read the ac-  
count from John 19:38-42 – read it.

But as we know, that was not the end. After three days in the tomb,  
he rose again. Read John 20:1-18.

So what is the significance of all of this for us? Two verses:

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live  
to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24 ESV)

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might be-  
come the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV)

Wrap up by reading Matt. 28:5-6...

Closing Hymn: # 220 – He Lives