

# Hearing Jesus

*"And the common people heard him gladly."*

*Mark 12:37 (KJV)*

**A**s with most leaders, our Lord had a hearing among the diverse members of society. Those who paid most attention to Him were the "common" people. Such truth brings confidence, joy, comfort, and encouragement especially to those of us who are "common people".

I have had the privilege over many years of dealing with people who wonder why a holy God would be "bothered" with them. Perhaps they had a criminal record, a failed marriage, wayward children, little to offer their Creator by their own estimation, or some other matter. These dear ones are missing the heart and soul of our Lord's first Advent.

While our Saviour welcomes people of every race, economic situation and accomplishments it seems He is especially attractive to ordinary people. Why? Well for one thing He was born into poverty, grew up unnoticed by society generally, as an adult owned no property and always had to borrow a place to sleep. In fact, when He began His public ministry, He kept His Messianic

identity secret. This action on our Lord's part is especially noted several times in Mark's Gospel and is called, "The Messianic Secret".

So, if you are sensing you are far from the Saviour today, take heart because He said He came to call people just like you to Himself. I would urge doubters to read the Gospel of Luke where our beloved Saviour is especially shown with people on the trailing edge of society. Some of the people were the lowly shepherds at His birth scene, widows, children, the prodigal son, the repentant thief and so on.

There is so much evidence of our Saviour paying close attention to ordinary people that there can be no doubt He is very interested in you, my reader. I urge you to come to Him just as you are and where you are. He will welcome you, forgive you as you confess your sin, give you peace of heart and mind, and guide you every step of life's journey until you arrive safe at your eternal home. Come to Him and come now.

Come, you sinners,  
poor and wretched,

Weak and wounded,  
sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands  
to save you,  
Full of pity  
joined with pow'r:  
He is able,  
He is willing; doubt no more.

Come, you weary,  
heavy laden,  
Bruised and broken  
by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better,  
You will never come at all:  
Not the righteous,  
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience  
make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness he requires  
Is to feel your need of him;  
This he gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! th'incarnate God,  
ascended,  
Pleads the merit of his blood;  
Venture on him,  
venture wholly,  
Let no other trust intrude:  
None but Jesus,  
Can do helpless sinners good.

- Joseph Hart

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