

Side Notes: The lyrics to “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” were written in 1885, by William Henry Parker, a member of the Chelsea Street Baptist Church in Nottingham, England. There, he was active in the work of the Sunday School. He wrote many hymns and songs and had fifteen of them published in the Sunday School Hymnary (1905).

When Parker’s Sunday School class requested Parker “tell us another story,” he was inspired to write a six verse song, titled “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus.” The verses are told from a child’s perspective, asking to hear stories such as when Jesus calmed the stormy Sea of Galilee, or when He blessed the little children in Judea. In the original poem, the third verse describes the Savior’s triumphal return to the temple in Jerusalem (Mark 11:8-9) and refers to ‘palms’ and ‘hosannas.’ The fifth verse includes the Savior’s teachings involving animals and nature, referring to ‘sparrows’ (Matthew 10:29) and ‘lilies’ (Luke 12:27). The sixth, and final verse, is dedicated to the Atonement of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32), and may have been excluded in later versions because of the heavy subject matter.

The music for the song was composed by Frederic A. Challinor, who wrote the tune for a competition sponsored by the National Sunday School Union, in London, England. The tune has been published in many hymnbooks and children's songbooks by multiple denominations over the years.

I included my two favorite verses of lyrics for this arrangement but you can easily add a repeat to the song if you would like to sing any of the other verses.

Tell me the Stories of Jesus

Arr. JASON TONIOLI

5 *Bring out the Melody and sing it with your fingers!*

Tell me the stor - ies of Je - sus, I love to

11

hear, Things I would ask Him to tell me,

17

if He were here. Scenes by the

rit.

23

way - side, tales of the sea,

rit.

29

Stor - ies of Je - sus, tell them to

rit.

35

me.

43

Oh, let me hear how the chil - dren, stood