

# Jesus | ACCEPTED? A Moving Story

## WESLEYS' THOUGHTS

Great is our redeeming Lord  
in power, and truth, and grace;  
him, by highest heaved adored,  
his Church on earth shall praise.

in the city of our God,  
in his holy mount below,  
publish, spread his name abroad,  
and all his greatness show.

For your loving-kindness, Lord,  
we in your temple stay;  
here your faithful love record,  
your saving power display.

With your name your praise is known,  
glorious your perfections shine;  
earth's remotest bounds shall own  
your works are all divine.

See the gospel Church secure,  
and founded on a rock;  
all her promises are sure;  
her bulwarks who can shock?

Count her every precious shrine;  
tell, to after-ages tell:  
fortified by power divine,  
the Church can never fail.

# Jesus | A Moving Story

Zion's God is all our own,  
who on his love rely;  
we his pardoning love have known,  
and live to Christ, and die.

To the new Jerusalem  
he our faithful guide shall be:  
him we claim, and rest in him,  
through all eternity.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Singing the Faith #683*



## BIBLE PASSAGE | LUKE 19:29-40

“When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> They said, “The Lord needs it.” <sup>35</sup> Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying,

“Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!”

<sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”



## DISCUSSION

They say that the camera never lies. Although today we know that computers manipulate images and what we see isn't always a true and accurate representation of the original! However, an image caught on camera can only hope to tell the truth of that instant. Most photographers would hate me calling an image a 'snapshot' but however professional and skilfully taken a photograph is it is only a 'snapshot' of that moment – it cannot tell you much about the past or the future.

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is a 'snapshot' of the journey of Christ at this particular point. We do not see the poverty of his birth, the scared flight from genocide of his childhood, being chased out of his hometown synagogue and the numerous times he was challenged as he tried to show God's love through healing, miracles and relationships with those pushed to the edges of society.

This particular 'snapshot' shows us, what is often described as the 'triumphal' entry into Jerusalem. A palm waving joyous crowd happy to proclaim that Christ is King and comes into their presence and their city in the name of God. In so much as this image is not a lie we know that the cries were different as Jesus was tried, as he walked through the streets of the city carrying his cross and as he hung crucified.

Too often we are presented with a 'snapshot' of migration that informs public opinion but fails to tell the whole truth. The narrative is that we must limit numbers a 'snapshot' that blurs the faces of individual humans in need and presents us, our resources and our country in clear focus. The 'snapshot' headlines declare that the influx of these faceless masses mean that we will suffer as jobs are taken, hospital waiting lists extended, social housing and benefits given to 'them' not 'us'.

Of course, removing the focus from those who seek to come to our country makes it easy to defend our borders. If we look at the reasons why people do migrate we begin the process of focusing on the human with compassion and understanding. When we see people fleeing religious and/or racial persecution, violence, poverty or environmental disaster we begin to understand just what it takes to travel to the unknown on dangerous paths.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Describe 'snapshots' of your own 'Moving Story'
- What 'snapshots' of migration have shaped your opinion?
- Read '***If Jesus were a Migrant Today***' (see Resources) and share the emotions it stirs up in you.
- At the London Methodist District Synod in September 2016 an appeal was made for food for Refugees. The response was overwhelming and 5 transit vans full of food were taken to Calais. This was a wonderful act of charity. In '***If Jesus were a Migrant Today***' Jesus concludes with the words "Who will shout out for me?" – how can we (do you believe we should) shout out for migrants as well as provide food?

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- Consider the following passages what do we believe God is saying to us through these passages;
  - Leviticus 19:33,
  - Job 31:32,
  - Matthew 5:43-44,
  - Matt. 25:44-46,
  - Romans 12:13,
  - Hebrews 13:1



## RESOURCES

### If Jesus were a Migrant Today...

<sup>29</sup> When he had come near Calais, at the place they used to call the Jungle, he was told  
<sup>30</sup> “Go into the lorry park ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find several large trucks whose doors are unlocked. Enter the container and hide yourself there. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘What are you doing?’ just run.” <sup>32</sup> So he went and found it as he had been told. <sup>33</sup> As he was hiding in the van, the driver shouted at him, “What the \*\*\*\* are you doing? I’m not going to be fined because you!” <sup>34</sup> He ran. <sup>35</sup> After many nights trying he eventually managed to hide in a lorry. <sup>36</sup> As he rode along, he was jostled, uncomfortable and scared. <sup>37</sup> As he approached people in this foreign land he heard them shout,  
<sup>38</sup> “Cursed are you  
    who comes in the name of wanting a better life!  
Go back home, we don’t want you here,  
    these are our houses and jobs, hands off my health care!”  
<sup>39</sup> Some of the faithful in the crowd said, “Be quiet and welcome those who come in need.”  
<sup>40</sup> The crowd answered, “If we remain silent, we will be overrun.” And Jesus asked, “Who will shout out for me?”

### “Myela” by Nick Mulvey

This could be used as part of the devotions or as an aid to discussion - in particular at point 2 - as presenting ‘snapshots’ of migration. <https://genius.com/Nick-mulvey-myela-lyrics>