

JUST AS I AM

I was doing some research regarding some hymns and there are thousands. I found the story behind this one very interesting. Charlotte Elliott wrote about 150 hymns.

Charlotte Elliott the daughter of an English silk merchant was the third child of six children. Two brothers became clergymen, two of her sisters died young, and she lost her father in 1833. Upon the death of her mother in 1843, her home was broken up and shortly after she and her only surviving sister went to the continent.

She had a happy childhood and a great life ahead of her until she experienced a physical breakdown in 1821 that left her an invalid for the rest of her life. Even worse for her was the spiritual fear and the feeling of unworthiness that she daily experienced.

A Christian evangelist gave her much comfort and encouraged her to keep writing her poetry. One of her poems so impressed her sister-in-law that she arranged to have it published in the Invalid's Hymn Book in 1836. The musician and publisher William Bradbury (who also composed the famous children's song "Jesus Loves Me; This I know") was so struck by Charlotte's poem that he composed the perfect tune for it. "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" had John 6:37 as its header: **"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."**

This little song, written by one so small and weak, had brought blessed peace of mind and heart to many millions of Christians. Through Jesus Christ all may know that they are loved and forgiven and those who believe it have it. If you lack Jesus, you have nothing. If you have Jesus, you have everything.

Just as I am—without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee—
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am—and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot—
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am—though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without—
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am—poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in Thee to find—
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am—Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe—
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am—Thy love unknown
Hath broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone—
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am—of that free love
The breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
Here for a season, then above—
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

