



No One Understands Like Jesus



**"No one understands like Jesus, He's a friend beyond compare;
meet Him at the throne of mercy, He is waiting for you there.**

**"No one understands like Jesus, ev'ry woe He sees and feels;
tenderly He whispers comfort, and the broken heart He heals.**

**"No one understands like Jesus, when the foes of life assail;
you should never be discouraged, Jesus cares and will not fail.**

**"No one understands like Jesus, when you falter on the way,
tho' you fail Him, sadly fail Him, He will pardon you today."**

**"No one understands like Jesus
when the days are dark and grim;
No one is so near, so dear as Jesus,
cast your every care on Him."
- John Peterson, 1952**

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." - Psalm 23:4

"If I should say, 'My foot has slipped,' Your lovingkindness, O Lord, will hold me up. When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your comforts delight my soul." - Psalm 94:18-19

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Because we know that our God is full of compassion and cares about our every need, we can also lean on the "God of all comfort" when our hearts are breaking. The Greek word for "comfort" is related to the familiar word "paraclete," which means "one who comes alongside to help." This term is used to describe the work of the Holy Spirit in John 14:25-26, where Jesus tells His disciples:

"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

Psalm 23 has often been recited at funeral services to bring comfort to those who are grieving the loss of someone they loved, but it also brings encouragement to those who are going through "the valley of the shadow of death" themselves.

We also need the Lord's comfort when facing the trials and disappointments that inevitably befall us in the course of our lifetime. This was the case for John Peterson, who wrote today's hymn and many other gospel songs in the mid-1950s. He had been passed over for a job promotion that he had expected to receive, and then unjustly treated by the one who was hired. In his extreme disappointment, John realized that Jesus was the only one who truly understood his suffering, and he found relief as he cast his cares upon his dear Savior.

Psalm 94:19 is a verse you may not know, but it is a good one to underline in your Bible. I once shared it with a friend who was going through a deep valley in her life, and she noticed verse 18. It is the lovingkindness of the Lord that holds us up when we need it most, and our anxious thoughts can be calmed as we set our minds on the God who is able to comfort us.

Once we have experienced comfort and consolation from the Lord, we are better able to encourage someone else. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 that the comfort which we receive in our affliction prepares us to then comfort those who are going through similar situations. We can't truly say that we understand their suffering unless we have walked that pathway ourselves, and come through on the other side, with God's help.

Then there are those times when we find comfort in the Lord's forgiveness after we have "failed Him, sadly failed Him." Our merciful God is always ready and willing to forgive His wayward children. As the Psalmist says in Psalm 103:13-14,

"Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are dust."

So be encouraged today as you trust in the compassion, care and comfort offered to us by our heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit was sent to be our Comforter and Helper, and Jesus is "the Friend beyond compare" who understands us completely and knows us better than we know ourselves. We are truly in good hands as we trust Him to meet our deepest needs today.