



「 RECAPTURING  
CHRISTMAS 」

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RECAPTURING  
CHRISTMAS

# Mary's Song

T



RECAPTURING  
CHRISTMAS

# Mary's Song

**T I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**



# Mary's Song

**T We give thanks to you, O God, we  
give thanks, for your Name is near;  
men tell of your wonderful deeds.**



# Mary's Song

**Because Joseph (Mary's fiancé) was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public shame, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.**



# Mary's Song

T

***Look to God, not your circumstance.***



RECAPTURING  
CHRISTMAS

# Mary's Song

**He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.**



# Mary's Song

*“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us...*



# Mary's Song

***T like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."***



# Poisoned Paradise

T



RECAPTURING  
CHRISTMAS

# Poisoned Paradise

**T God blessed them and said to them,  
“Be fruitful and increase in number;  
fill the earth and subdue it. Rule  
over the fish of the sea and the birds  
of the air and over every living  
creature that moves on the ground...**



# Poisoned Paradise

**T Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food...**



# Poisoned Paradise

**T And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground – everything that has the breath of life in it – I give every green plant for food.” And it was so...**



# Poisoned Paradise

**God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.**



# Poisoned Paradise

**T And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”**



# Poisoned Paradise

*“Contentment is about resting, about removing ourselves from the vain strivings of the world and thus finding peace and quiet in God’s will.”*



# Poisoned Paradise

**T** When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and decrees...



# Poisoned Paradise

**T** that I am giving you this day.  
**Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase...**



# Poisoned Paradise

**And all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.**



# Poisoned Paradise

T

***Look to God, not your circumstance.***



RECAPTURING  
CHRISTMAS

# Poisoned Paradise

T

*Is my discontent focused on me  
or others?*



RECAPTURING  
CHRISTMAS

# Discovering Contentment

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RECAPTURING  
CHRISTMAS

# Discovering Contentment

**T I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need...**



# Discovering Contentment

**T for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation...**



# Discovering Contentment

**whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.**



# Discovering Contentment

*I've learned to be content when I receive everything I want. I've learned to be content when I got nothing I wanted. I can do either one by the power of Christ.*



# Discovering Contentment

**T How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save?**



# Discovering Contentment

**T Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.**



# Discovering Contentment

**Though the fig tree does not bud and  
there are no grapes on the vines,  
though the olive crop fails and fields  
produce no food, though there are  
no sheep in the pen and no cattle in  
the stalls...**



# Discovering Contentment

**Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my fee like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.**



# Discovering Contentment

*We won't be fully satisfied when we get what we want. Because God loves us and wants us to find our satisfaction in him, he won't allow us to be satisfied. To believe that we'll finally be happy when we get what we want is a lie."*

