

Jesus, Master of My Heart

@2010 Andy Gleiser; Arranged by Greg Habegger

The seed thought for this song came from reading Martyn Lloyd-Jones' exposition of Romans chapter 1. Lloyd-Jones elaborated on Paul's statement that he was the "bond-slave" of Christ. His quote launched the song ... *I am His slave ... His willing slave. He has not only bought me out, but I do not want anything else; I do not want anybody else to be my Master; Nobody else is my Master. I have given myself to Him. He has won me. He has captivated me. I am lost in Him, the bond-slave of Jesus Christ.*

And so this song became a longing for Jesus. As I typically try to do when I pen a hymn, I included a stanza about the cross and the loyalty I owe Him for such an enormous sacrifice. The third stanza deals with the reality that Jesus knows intimately every wound I could ever face. After all, He endured suffering as a man, I can find hope and healing in Him.

As the hymn was nearing completion, our pastoral staff visited a dear man of God who was dying from Lou Gehrig's disease. I'll not forget brother Dean sitting in his specially-made chair asking us to sing several hymns for him. As we sang a song of heaven, he wept uncontrollably, his whole body shaking. As we finished, I'll always hold dear the image of his wet eyes shining with the hope of eternity. Through his tears he asked us, ***"Can you just image what it's going to be like to die and immediately wake up in the arms of Jesus?"*** With that, he broke into tears again. A few days later, his faith became sight. It was after singing with Dean in his home that day that I wrote the final stanza ... *Welcome me so tenderly as my eyes behold Your face.*