



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.5, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

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Program 45 "It Wasn't His Child" © Skip Ewing

"What makes you a man is not the ability to have a child. Any fool can have a child. That doesn't make you father. It's the courage to raise a child that makes you a father." – Barack Obama, Father's Day 2008

With the recent surge in popularity of TV reality shows, you don't have to channel surf very far to run across some program featuring DNA testing to determine who is or isn't the father of some child. The announcement of results breaks the tension in the air. All too often, if the man is found not to be the father, he jumps with glee and revels in the fact that he won't have to pay child support. Entertaining? Perhaps, but step back and think about it... What joy is there in a broken relationship that leaves an innocent baby without material support or a loving father?

Across our fallen world, children are often orphaned by war, abandoned at birth, or discarded to beg and fend for themselves on blighted urban streets. But they are not social mistakes... Jesus Christ died for every one of them! When you look at these children, can you see them for their potential? Do you recognize that each one is made in the image of God? Do you understand that their Heavenly Father has a plan for each of their lives? Now consider that, as Christians, you and I are adopted. Ephesians 1:5 tells us -- *"He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will."* And He didn't have to do that. He did so because He loves us.

Our featured song today tells a compelling story of a man who lovingly raised a child that he did not father. As the story unfolds, the man's identity becomes clear. Listen to the song, study the lyrics, and try to see fatherless children through the eyes of God...

The Song ¹

- Story of Joseph of Nazareth, who raised the Christ child as his own
- Written by Skip Ewing, who attended Columbine High School, Jefferson County CO
- Recorded by Ewing; covered by Sawyer Brown, Trisha Yearwood and others
- Yearwood recorded an impressive video of this song -- can be viewed on YouTube

The Artist – Patricia Lynn "Trisha" Yearwood ²

- Born in 1964 in Georgia -- country music singer, best known for major hits in the '90s
- Awards: 3 Grammy's, 2 CMA's, and 2 Academy of Country Music Awards
- Career boosted immensely by Garth Brooks, whom she married in 2005
- Biggest Influence was Linda Ronstadt; other influences include Elvis and Patsy Cline
- Debut album, released in '91, went double platinum, selling over 2 million copies
- Hits include "She's in Love with the Boy", "Perfect Love", "XXX's and OOO's (An American Girl)", "Thinkin' About You", "How Do I Live", and "Perfect Love"

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skip_Ewing

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trisha_Yearwood

He was her man, she was his wife
And late one winter night
He knelt by her as she gave birth
But it wasn't his child, It wasn't his child

Yet still he took him as his own
And as he watched him grow
It brought him joy – He loved that boy
But it wasn't his child, It wasn't his child

But like a father he was strong and kind and good
And I believe he did his best
It wasn't easy for him but he did all he could
His son was different from the rest
It wasn't his child, It wasn't his child

And when the boy became a man
He took his father's hand
And soon the world would all know why
It wasn't his child, It wasn't his child

And like his father he was strong and kind and good
And I believe he did his best
It wasn't easy for him but he did all he could
He grew up with his hands in wood
And he died with his hands in wood
He was God's child,
He was God's child



He was her man, she was his wife
And late one winter night
He knelt by her as she gave birth
But it wasn't his child, It was God's child

Examples of “adoption” in the Bible –

- Moses, by Pharaoh's daughter (see Exodus 2:5-10)
- Esther, by her cousin (see Esther 2:7,15)

Some famous people who were adopted –

- Alexander Hamilton – 1st US Treasurer
- Nelson Mandela – President of S. Africa
- Willie Nelson – famous country singer
- Gerald R. Ford – US President
- William J. Clinton – US President
- George Washington Carver – Chemist
- Babe Ruth – Baseball legend
- Faith Hill – Country music star

Probably wasn't easy for Joseph in Nazareth

*“...Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to **public disgrace**, he had in mind to divorce her quietly” -- Matthew 1:18b,19*

Different? Definitely! Though not much is recorded about Jesus in His formative years, He taught in the temple in Jerusalem at age 12!

The 2006 film, “The Nativity Story” portrays Joseph as compassionate and self-sacrificing –

- Protecting Mary from judgmental people
- Caring for Mary and the donkey that carried her
- Rescuing the Christ-child from King Herod

Though the movie is not scripture, it is consistent with what we know of Joseph from the Scriptures

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans ... in their distress...” – James 1:27

Final Thoughts...

Raising my three children is one the greatest joys and privileges of my life. Two of them I did not father – they were abandoned in infancy in third-world countries. But I am “Dad” to all three. I often remark that I “flunked ‘Discernment 101’” in the university of life. Yet, when it came to knowing whether it was God's will that I should adopt these orphans, I have never been so sure of anything else in my life – even at age 52! Now, my calling is even more sure – to provide them the security and protection of a loving home, to teach them of their Heavenly Father, and successfully “pass the baton” to them to achieve their full potential according to whatever God has planned for them. I know several men who are raising children they did not father. To those who do not have a “Dad” in this world, God has pledged to be a “Father to the fatherless” (see Psalm 68). May God bless each of you as you seek His direction for how to make a difference in the life of fatherless children!

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