

Just As I Am

She was an embittered woman, Charlotte Elliott of Brighton, England. Her health was broken, and her disability had hardened her. "If God loved me," she muttered, "He would not have treated me this way."

Hoping to help her, a Swiss minister named Dr. Cesar Malan visited the Elliotts on May 9, 1822. Over dinner, Charlotte lost her temper and railed against God and family in a violent outburst. Her embarrassed family left the room, and Dr. Malan, left alone with her, stared at her across the table.

"You are tired of yourself, aren't you?" he said at length. "You are holding to your hate and anger because you have nothing else in the world to cling to. Consequently, you have become sour, bitter, and resentful."

"What is your cure?" asked Charlotte.

"The faith you are trying to despise."

As they talked, Charlotte softened. "If I wanted to become a Christian and to share the peace and joy you possess," she finally asked, "what would I do?"

"You would give yourself to God just as you are now, with your fightings and fears, hates and loves, pride and shame."

"I would come to God just as I am? Is that right?"

Charlotte did come just as she was. Her heart was changed that day, as time passed she found and claimed [John 6:37](#) as a special verse for her: ". . . he who comes to Me I will in no wise cast out."

Several years later, her brother, Rev. Henry Elliott, was raising funds for a school for the children of poor clergymen. Charlotte wrote a poem, and it was printed and sold across England. The leaflet said: *Sold for the Benefit of St. Margaret's Hall, Brighton: Him That Cometh to Me I Will in No Wise Cast Out*. Underneath was Charlotte's poem—which has since become the most famous invitational hymn in history:

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st 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!*

From: *More real stories for the soul*. 2000 (electronic ed.) (Pages 40-43)



The Hidden Life of Dogs

God must love dogs, because He has made so many of them. And He must have a sense of humor, because He has sometimes used dogs in the oddest ways.

In one of the African churches under the care of missionary James King, there was a lady who came by herself to every service. Accompanying her was an old, ugly dog. He would enter with the lady and sit beside her during the service. She sat on an outside seat next to the aisle, and at the conclusion of the service, when the invitation was given by the pastor for people to come for prayer, the dog would come along and take his place beside her.

The lady's husband was a cruel man, and he abused her. In fact, he beat her so severely that she died. After her death, it was only he and the dog left. But he noticed that the dog disappeared on Wednesday evening about 7:00 and didn't reappear for two hours. It happened again on Sunday morning at about 9:00. The same thing happened Sunday evening.

The following Sunday morning, the man's curiosity was so aroused that he decided to follow and see what the dog was up to. He followed the dog to the humble little church, and the dog went in and took his seat on the aisle while the service went on. At the close of the service, the dog came forward and took his place by the altar.

The man sat in the back of the church, and he was so impressed and touched in his spirit, that he, too, went forward and gave his life to Christ.

And now the dog comes to church with a new master.

From: *More real stories for the soul*. 2000 (electronic ed.) (Pages 43-45)