

34th – Bible Seeds Podcast

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- Intro Music - “My Father Is So Good To Me”

Intro narrative by Carl Vasta

Hi, my name is Carl Vasta and I would like to welcome you to the Bible Seeds section here, at Understanding God’s Word. This is where I get to comment on biblical readings and stories that brings the bible into what’s happening to us in our daily lives.

I’ll touch on such topic as Family Prayer or Why I Believe There Is A God. I’ll talk about what was predicted that makes these the Terrible Times In The Last Days or how to Have A Daily Meaningful Relationship With God.

Today's topic is **THE HONEST SONGS OF THE IRISH**

Looking back over the last 55 years of my making music, singing, playing and writing songs, I remember many Irish celebrations and I had the pleasure to perform Irish music. There were the reels like the “Irish Washer Woman”, and reminiscent songs like “Galway Bay” and “Molly Malone” and Patriot songs like “Wearing Of The Green”.

There were songs that were only known in Ireland and new songs that came out of Irish American writers. There was a commonality of all of them. They were somewhat like the bible: songs and stories of people

with good judgement and people with bad judgement.

The bible contains the same honesty. It tells of people with good judgement and people with bad judgement and it tells of good people who have days of bad judgement.

It tells of a man named **Abraham** who was convinced by his wife Sarah to have a baby with her maidservant Hagar because she didn't believe God would give her a child at her age. The child of Hagar, **Ishmael**, became the king of many kingdoms who would oppose the Israelites.

It also tells of a man named **Lot** whose wife and daughters were saved from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, but again his wife didn't believe the angel when told not to look back at the great ball of fire that engulfed the city and she became as dust and pillar of salt.

Lot and his daughters traveled on to a small city but were still afraid and went to take shelter in a cave. The daughters were distraught at the thought of never having a normal life with a husband and children, so they got their father drunk and both got pregnant having their father's children who became the tribes of **Moabites** and the **Ammonites**.

Jacob pretended to be **Esau**, his older brother to his blind father, **Isaac**, to receive the blessing of the first born. After many years Jacob was named **Israel, the father of the twelve tribes**, by the Angel who wrestled with him during the night before he was to meet his brother who came to kill him but finally made peace.

You will find many stories in the bible that expose people who had great faith in God and in the New Testament had great faith in Jesus,

but had one of those days of bad judgement.

The songs of the Irish who tell of tales of escaping their hardships with excessive drinking, bold fighting, real and deceptive love, joyful celebrations of singing, dancing, laughter and making fun of hard to believe stories about leprechauns, fairies, unicorns, lucky shamrocks and kissing a blarney stone.

In the middle of this comes a song according to the **"Irish Music Daily"** publication that is subtitled [**Daily news and information about Irish music**]

The song is called *"Danny Boy"*****

The melody is often credited to a blind Irish harpist named Rory Dall O'Cahan. It's thought that he lived between the years 1560 and 1660.

The legend goes that he drank too much one evening and on his way home he fell down next to a river and dropped his harp.

As he lay there almost unconscious, he soon became aware of a haunting melody floating through the air.

He was hypnotized because he had never heard anything so beautiful before. He was afraid to move in case the music stopped.

The story goes that when curiosity got the best of him, he managed to turn around and was amazed to see fairies playing on his harp. As soon as they had finished, they departed leaving the silence of the night.

By now he had come back to himself and was wide awake. He rushed to his harp to start playing the melody before he forgot it. As soon as he memorized it, he hurried back to his patron's castle to play it to anyone who would listen.

The melody became known as O'Cahan's Lament and quickly became popular throughout the north of Ireland. It was known and played by the locals.

In 1851, a wealthy woman named Jane Ross heard a harpist, a blind man called Jimmy McCurry, playing the song across the road from where she lived in the town of Limavady in Northern Ireland.

She was so taken with the tune that she went across to ask him to play it again so that she could write it down. She then gave him a coin for his trouble. He put the coin to his lips to check its value. He expected it to be a penny but then discovered it was a florin – 24 times more than he was expecting and more than a week's wages in those days.

He shouted after the lady thinking she must have made a mistake but she wouldn't take the coin back. She told him to keep it as a token of her appreciation. That florin must rate as one of the best ever investments in music!

Many people believe the tune heard by Jane Ross that day was the melody originally composed by Rory Dall O'Cahan some 200 years before.

Ross sent a copy of the tune to Dr. George Petrie who was devoted to the study of Irish music. She didn't have a title for the tune and just said it was a very old air from Londonderry.

Petrie recognized its quality and **published it immediately under the simple title of *The Londonderry Air***. Several lyricists added words to the exciting new melody but none really caught on.

Meanwhile across the Irish Sea in England, a lawyer named Fred Weatherly had made a name for himself as a prolific songwriter. In 1910, he wrote a song called Danny Boy which, to his great disappointment, completely flopped. The lyrics were good but the melody wasn't strong enough.

Then his sister-in-law Margaret Weatherly, who was living in Colorado, silver mining with her husband, heard a tune being played by Irish workers who were prospecting for gold. She fell in love with the melody and sent a copy of the sheet music to Fred in the hope that he might be able to use it.

Weatherly couldn't believe his luck. He saw that the Danny Boy lyrics needed only the slightest amendments to fit this magical new tune. He republished the song using the new melody and it was an instant success.

The gramophone was just coming into vogue and that helped to spread the song across the world. More than 100 performers recorded the song within a few years of it being published.

For your listening pleasure, here is a recording of **my version of Danny Boy**. Keep in mind that in the lyric that Danny's father is mindful that even in nature, and in our own lives, birth and death happens to everyone: the good and bad. And only those who put their faith in GOD Jehovah, the Father, His son Jesus, and the His Holy Spirit, have the hope of life and love after we die.

- Back Ground Music Starts and

I would like you to know how much GOD loves you. He is ready and waiting to help you. You just need to believe that He exists and has created all things and has given His Son Jesus, (the good shepherd), to bring you back to him

This is why I put together these pod casts, starting with **The Storyline Of The Bible**, 19 easy understandable pod casts that take you from Genesis, the first book of the bible- to Revelation, the last book of the bible.

And beyond that, there are **The Stories And Quotes From Jesus**, which will help you to strengthen your faith in God. And now I have just added these Bible Seeds: my commentary on some of these readings.

You can find all of this and print out the **PDFs** for Storyline Of The Bible and Quotes and Stories from Jesus. You can download the MP3s, Videos, and my original music from my website: www.carlvasta.com Everything is free and there are no sign ups. Enjoy!

Ending The Program

This is your host Carl Vasta and I thank you for tuning in to Bible Seeds at Understanding God's Word.

New podcasts are released on Sundays at 12:30PM Pacific Coast Time. God bless you and your loved ones and remember. . .