

## **"AT DEEP DAWN"**

*a poem/sermon by Jim Lowry,*

If everything you believe in is true, then there is hope.  
If everything you believe in is a lie, then there is no hope.

Remember what he taught you...  
Remembering what he taught you  
    is what will help you believe your Jesus is alive.

Today we must remember how Jesus taught us  
    the meek really will, at last, inherit the earth.  
We do believe that, don't we?

Today we must remember how Jesus taught us  
    the peacemakers really are the children of God.  
We do believe that, don't we?

Today we must remember how Jesus taught us  
    that the ones who stand for what is right will be blessed.  
We do believe that, shouldn't we?

If you long for hope that will not let you go; . . .  
If you want the children to grow up  
    surrounded by kindness born of truth;  
If you long for the world not to self-destruct,  
    this is the story you must remember,  
    and this is the story the church must tell:

Remember how once a long time ago  
    a decree went out from Caesar Augustus  
    that all the world should be enrolled.

Then remember and tell  
how Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea;  
and how he was tempted in the wilderness;  
and how when he was baptized the heavens opened and God said,  
    "This is my son. . . Listen to him";  
and how he took little children on his knee and said,  
    "Of such is the kingdom of God";  
and how he taught us to turn the other cheek  
    and to love neighbor as self;  
and how he made sick people well . . .  
and how when the disciples were in trouble  
    he walked to them on water;  
and how he fed a multitude with five loaves and two fish. . . .

We must remember and we must tell the story  
of the Prodigal Son  
and of the Good Samaritan;  
and the Lost Sheep;  
and the Invested Talents;  
and all the rest.

And we must remember and we must tell  
how he demonstrated that dying for someone else's sin  
is the love that will keep the world from self-destructing.

In those moments of deep, deep dawn,  
When you remember what he taught you,

You will know. . . .  
You will believe. . . .  
You will be sure there is hope so strong  
not even the grave can contain it.

That hope for us is the truth of Jesus of Nazareth.

*("At Deep Dawn," Journal for Preachers, Easter 2004, pp. 26–33)*