

Song Story #21 – *He’s Not Lyin’ There*

The great author and thinker, C.S. Lewis, who famously wrote the Chronicles of Narnia, made a statement about Jesus in one of his books that stuck with me. He said, as much as people want to make Jesus just another good moral teacher, Jesus Himself, by the things He said about Himself, doesn’t leave us that option. He said that either Jesus was a liar, a lunatic or the Lord – there are no other options. So, what makes us believe He is the Lord? It’s His resurrection. If Jesus didn’t rise from the dead like He said He would, then we could easily write off all the claims that He made about Himself like “I am the Door, I am the Way, I am the Truth, I am the Life” and “Before Abraham was, I AM” - as being the ravings of a good guy with some good moral teachings but who had a grandiose view of Himself and was a bit crazy or was just big liar. But, if He actually rose from the dead, it causes every word he spoke to have much more gravity to it. That’s why, when Thomas put his fingers in the wounds of Jesus after His resurrection, his response was to worship Him and call Him “My Lord and my God!” This was God incarnate!

I’ve written and recorded a couple of other Easter songs in the past – “We Celebrate the Love of God” – a joyous Caribbean style Easter song and “Resurrection Chant” – a driving, sort of tribal Easter song. With each of those songs, I was trying to capture the joy and power of the resurrection of Jesus. In writing “He’s Not Lyin’ There”, I was making another attempt at bringing new power and light to the story of the resurrection through music. But in this song, I wanted to do a bit of an apologetic about the implications of Jesus’ words in light of his resurrection like C.S. Lewis did, to hopefully shake the listener out of the passive, complacency toward Jesus that so many people have.

When this song first began to form in my head, musically, for some reason, I had the music of the pseudo punk band “Green Day” in my mind – specifically their song “Holiday”. I’m not actually a fan of them, but had passively heard that song a few times on the radio over the years, and like what happens with me with a lot of music, I sort of absorb it by osmosis and then it gets regurgitated out in some other way! So, I wrote the whole song in that sort of way and had our Heart of the City drummer, Angel Diaz, play very stark, driving rock drums with no toms. I got it put together that way and when I was done, I loved the chorus, but the verses and the bridge just weren’t working. I reworked lyrics to try to be less wordy and it still didn’t feel right. So, I set it aside for most of another year... I did that off and on for three years! I’ve never been so stuck on a song! Then, I finally decided to get some outside writer help – even though I never do that. I contacted a friend of mine, Mark Heimermann. Mark was a major Nashville keyboard player and writer and producer (and he sings) for years but now lives in Bloomington, Minnesota. So, I sent the song to him to see if he had any alternate ideas for the verse and the bridge. He quickly sent me back a new instrumental bed for the verses and the bridge that was very different. That inspired me to write new melodies for those sections and also to adapt the lyrics a bit more. It brought whole new musical ideas I wouldn’t have thought of and without trying to do it, I think it gave the verses a bit of a Coldplay and U2 feel. Mark added his keyboard bass and other keyboard work and I did all the vocals and guitar and what you hear is what we came up with. I’m hoping that the intensity of this music and this performance, drives home the powerful message of the resurrection of the One who said He is the Way, the Truth and the Life!

You can click on this link to hear this song on YouTube [He's Not Lyin' There by Dan Adler - Official Video - YouTube](#) As of this writing, this song has just been released as a single and is not on any of our albums. It is available for download at www.danandsandyadler.com/music-store and can be streamed through most streaming sites as well.

He's Not Lyin' There Words and Music by Dan Adler

It was a dark, dark day when they led the Son
to a cruel cross 'til He said, "It's done!"
The sky turned dark and the curtain tore
and they sealed His tomb like a prison door
For three whole days He was in that tomb
But all they found was an empty room
When an angel filled their hearts with fear
and said to them, "Why are you lookin' in here?"

Chorus: He's not lyin' there! He's not in the tomb!
The stone is rolled away! Now it's just an empty room!
He's not lyin' there! No longer in the grave!
'Cause Jesus rose again for those He came to save! Oh
La la-la la la, la-la-la-la la, La la-la la la la la-la la-la la-la (repeat)

2. They say He's just a man, just another way
If you think that's true, hear the words He'd say
He said I AM the Truth, the only Way
and I'll rise again on the third day
And no one else said that they could save
or said they'd rise up from the grave
So He must have lied or lost His mind
unless He really left His grave behind

2nd Chorus: He's not lyin' there! He's not in the tomb!
The stone is rolled away! Now it's just an empty room!
He's not lyin' there! No longer in the grave!
'Cause Jesus rose again for those He came to save!
He's not lyin' there! He wasn't lyin' when
He said they'd bury Him but then He'd rise up again!
He's not lyin' there! So what He said is true!
He's not lyin' there! And He died for me and you! Oh
La la-la la la, la-la-la-la la, La la-la la la la la-la la-la la-la (repeat)

Bridge: He said He came to lay His life down
He said they'd nail Him up on a tree
He said the grave could not keep Him down
And in three whole days He would rise for you and me (to Chorus)

Now He's not lyin' there! Did you hear what I said?!
He's not lyin' there! 'Cause He rose up from the dead!
He's not lyin' there! So what He said is true!
He's not lyin' there! And He died for me and you!

He's not lyin' there! He wasn't lyin' when
He said they'd bury Him but then He'd rise up again!
He's not lyin' there! So what He said is true!
He's not lyin' there and He died for me and you! Oh
La la-la la la, la-la-la-la la, La la-la la la la-la la-la la-la (repeat)
Now He's not lyin' there! He's not lyin' there! He's not lyin' there!
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