

# A TALE OF TWO TREES (ALBUM TWO)

MATTHEW CLARK

## 1. You Belong

Wait, wait, before you give up  
Breath, breath remember what's true  
When feel like you're a stranger  
And you can't find a friend

### CHORUS

You belong to someone who loves you  
You belong to someone who loves you  
You belong, you belong  
You were made to belong... to someone who loves you

Somedays the clouds will not part  
Most days there's a fog on your heart  
But you've been around enough  
To know the daylight will come

### BRIDGE

Someone who's written your name of his hands  
Someone who laid down his life  
Someone who waited with tears in his eyes  
And kept watch down the road for his runaway child

I know with the world like it is  
Hope tends to slip through your fists  
But the truth is the truth  
Though the whole world tell lies

## 2. A Tale of Two Trees

I dreamed I saw two family trees  
They grew from very different seeds  
One stood tall with flowered crowns  
And one was bent and bitter

The bitter tree bore sour fruit  
That made the people eating do  
Wickedness upon the earth  
Until they grew to love it

The flowered tree put out its leaves  
Which perfumed faintly that bitter breeze  
The bent tree's branches shook like snakes  
And did their best to kill it

But up the sweetness rose again  
Like children rise from water cleansed and  
Though the thorns tore at their flesh  
They would not stop their singing

Well ages came and ages went  
And it seemed the good tree's strength was spent  
While the bitter tree kept sprouting strong  
And choking out its fragrance

Till one day evil's wicked limbs  
Entangled all the hopes of men  
And struck that holy heartwood down  
And felled the mighty timber

The crooked fingers of that tree  
Took hold of earth and made it bleed  
And most forgot what goodness was  
Or where to go to find it

And holiness decayed to dust  
The spinning world gave way to lust  
And justice cracked like splintered wood  
The world lay in confusion

### **BRIDGE**

A tree is known by the fruit it bears

And every day we plant ourselves  
In one of two families  
In one of these two family trees

But no one saw the twist to come  
The prophets of the stump of God  
Were killed like fools and all ignored  
But underneath the soil

A tender Word beneath the roots  
Uncurled until a little shoot  
Unfurled into the poisoned air  
To raise the ancient family

To stir the dormant seed of faith  
And water withered hearts awake  
To die upon that bitter tree  
And uproot it forever

And one day soon we'll see his face  
David's branch will clear away  
The stubble where the wicked grew  
And Jesus will make all things new

### 3. How can we sing the Lord's Song?

Our captors cracked their whips and grinned

*Down by the rivers of Babylon*

They laughed and mocking bid us sing

*Down by the rivers of Babylon*

So we hung our harps upon a withered tree

*Down by the rivers of Babylon*

And we gave up songs about being free

*Down by the rivers of Babylon*

#### **Pre-Chorus**

Oh don't let our love grow cold

#### **CHORUS**

But how can we sing the Lord's song

How can we sing about home?

How can we sing the Lord's song

By the rivers of babylon?

We wake up strangers in a foreign land

*Down by the rivers of Babylon*

Lord, dry as sand slipping through your hand

*Down by the rivers of Babylon*

#### **Pre-Chorus**

#### **CHORUS**

#### **BRIDGE**

Oh, his love endures forever

(Lord, don't hide your face forever)

#### **CHORUS**

#### **4. When I Cried Out (Psalm 40)**

When I cried out from the pit that I had dug  
His song burst past the dead end grave  
Isaiah's burning ember came and kissed me on the mouth  
And I knew there was still music to be made

#### **CHORUS**

After all that I've seen, I cannot seal my lips  
Even when my heart fails within me,  
For the Lord did not hide, no, he listened in his mercy  
And his song of lovingkindness still persists  
Though I do not understand it, I am standing on this

All my troubles when they swelled into a crowd  
The shame of failures too many to count  
Then I whispered through the tangle, and you looked me in the eyes  
I found quiet that sang louder than those lies

#### **CHORUS**

#### **BRIDGE**

I thought I had to climb that holy hill to twist your arm  
But when you bent to wash my feet, I knew that I'd been wrong

#### **CHORUS**

## 5. Like a Lamb

Fear and pride are just two sides, friend  
Of Caesar's tarnished penny  
Quietness and rest belong to God  
But who hasn't studied warfare  
On the battlefield of life here  
Perfecting self-defense just to survive?

You know how good it feels, love  
To scratch the itch of anger  
But complaining only chains us up inside  
Feels like safety and power  
In a world so full of danger  
It feels like danger to be grateful, small, and quiet

### CHORUS

But Oh, I see the Mighty Word of God  
Go silent to the slaughter like a Lamb  
Oh, I hear the voices of the crowd  
Grow louder as the buried kernel's roots descend

Cause the roots beneath the surface  
Search and listen for a music  
That is and was and will be evermore  
Like an acorn to an oak tree  
Who would ever think it could be  
That those little lambs might ever rule the world

But the meek will spread their branches  
Above the clamour of the nations  
The sons of God will rest beneath their shade  
And the politics of power  
That seemed so strong until that hour  
Will fall into the traps their power laid

### CHORUS

### BRIDGE

Nobody's free from hardship  
And the briars in the garden  
Can push their way so deeply down inside  
Till what started out so tender  
Is choked out by the winter  
And gentleness don't have a chance to flower

But don't let your love grow cold, dear  
or buy the lies they've sold here  
For the fools of God will fiddle on the roof  
All their lives they were the punchline  
Now their laughing faces outshine  
Every image Caesar thought would get him  
through

## **6. Follow You Down**

Whoever would lose their life  
They will save it

### **CHORUS**

I wanna be in your story, Jesus  
I wanna follow you down, down, down

Whoever would save their life  
They will lose it

### **BRIDGE**

Your love is teaching me a new story

## 7. Let your roots go deep

Sit with me and talk awhile, Here while there's a quiet hour  
We'll whisper with these witnesses, These steady stars  
Who shine out in the universe, Marking out this path of ours  
That only faith has eyes to see, That ends in joy

### CHORUS

Oh, let your roots grow deep  
Is the word of truth you heard beginning to grow faint?  
Let your roots grow deep, Let your roots grow deep  
Don't give up the fight just yet, fix your eyes on Christ and  
Let your roots grow deep, Let your roots grow deep

Drink deep from the Holy Fount, Whom angels praise and heaven crowns  
He washes weary pilgrim feet with Riversong  
And even though this riverbed, Does not bear a river yet  
These trees that grow know underground, Deep waters wait

### CHORUS

The Kingdom that we see ahead, the joy of our inheritance  
Is built upon a Cornerstone the world rejects  
So, if today you hear his voice, Still and small amidst the noise  
Don't miss the call to fall into, His open arms

### BRIDGE

Oh Let your roots go deep

### CHORUS

## 8. The Word Became Flesh

Driving up to Memphis  
A bitter winter night it was  
When my engine froze to death  
And I called you from the roadside

You left your bed and drove the miles to find me  
The frozen street turned into home with family

### CHORUS

The Word, the word, the word ... became flesh

I sat down at your table  
And the plate you set before me  
In your small apartment kitchen  
Was a simple meal you made

But the bread we broke flung wide the palace doors  
And I tasted of the goodness of the Lord

### BRIDGE

What you've got to give is what he gave to you  
Like a still small voice, it may not seem like it's enough  
But you can let the song ring out in a wilderness of doubt  
Ever since the word became flesh

God he opened up his mouth  
The sun rose bright as a golden ring  
When He knelt to say 'I love you'  
A bride awoke to sing

Don't think your voice too poor to join the song  
The smallest touch moves symphonies along

### CHORUS

## 9. Take to the Fields

I saw a man with a bleeding heart  
A bleeding heart  
Ragged as the wind, eager to begin  
Oh His eyes they were clear as gold  
Searching out the crags  
Tender, strong and sad  
Gave up all he had, left the his home behind  
Gone a seeking

### CHORUS

If you got eyes to see  
Come keep watch with me  
If you got ears to hear  
I pray you know  
The Lord is near

I saw a house full of shepherds in repose  
Moths ate off their clothes  
All naked emperors, wrapped in soothing words  
But you skinned your knees when you slid to break my fall  
I howled up at the moon,  
when the salt got in the wound, the fire licked my tomb  
And fire rolled like water there to cleanse me

So take to the fields, oh take to the roads  
Wonder at the thorns that bite into the rose  
Cut down to the bones  
Take your pail and gather where you can  
The field is ripe with grain, and scattered sheep like sand  
Too little callous on my hands, there is mercy on the wind  
If you can hear it

## **10. In the Waters**

I was scared for my life  
Saw the ship was capsizing  
And the Lord lay asleep while the storm raged  
I was losing my mind  
All the darkness was blinding  
Till the Lord with a word stilled the chaos  
In the waters, in the waters

I've seen life go so wrong  
Seen the best sink in sadness  
Till the dark seemed their only companion  
But I've seen Jesus come save  
Walking out upon the waves  
With his feet planted firm in the madness  
In the waters, in the waters

### **Interlude**

And some days nothing makes sense  
Lord, the still place is spinning  
And the center can't hold for much longer  
So won't you bring us your song  
As the howling grows stronger

Your voice is an anchor, Your voice is an anchor, Your voice is an anchor to me  
In the waters, in the waters

### **BRIDGE**

I can hear it, I can hear it, I can hear it coming through

Through the storm, through the darkness (I can hear it coming through)  
In the places I was sure your love had left me  
Every night I was sleepless  
But the beauty of the moonlight was you singing  
When the flames tore the house down  
There were friends who became my home and family  
So I know you will not fail  
That your love, my God, endures forever

## 11. By The Rivers of Babylon

The endless voices whisper, all our hopes are only dreams  
No Deliverer is coming, that we are blind in our belief  
but in the land where we all sojourn, with its beauty and its ash  
I will sing still for the Kingdom and a King who's coming back

### **CHORUS**

by the rivers of Babylon  
we will sing a gospel song in a foreign land

While the nations all are raging, hear the Lord in heaven laugh  
we will stand upon his promise, the ways of men will never last,  
and like a seed is to a tree, in the twinkling of an eye  
we will see the heavens open, we will meet him in the sky

### **CHORUS**

### **BRIDGE**

there will be no word for lonely  
In the Kingdom Jesus brings  
Every fear shall be forgotten  
and all will be made clean

all the merciful will know him  
The pure will touch his face  
See the children bear his banner  
and the slandered share his name

Soon the river of our exile  
Will become a holy spring  
While the bent tree with its bitter fruit  
It will never grow again

Now, the face that showed us kindness  
Met our thirst by Jacob's well  
He will clothe us in his garments  
He will marry us himself

### **CHORUS**