

'Barnabas' Prayer

Lord, I meet so many people who are discouraged,
Disillusioned with governments, religion, their neighbours or family,
Negative about everything, cynical about life.
And while they're not great company,
I can't completely blame them.

Living in this broken world can knock the heart out of us.
It's not hard to lose faith in others, in ourselves,
And sometimes we can wonder if Heaven really cares.

Remind us Lord that you didn't give up on us,
That even after centuries of wickedness you came to our rescue,
The Good Shepherd born out in the cold for the poor, for everyone.
Re-inspire us with the primary facts of your grace and loving mercy,
And the vision of all that you promise, all that you have begun.

Help us picture your kingdom of all peoples united,
Feuds and divisions healed, war and death obsolete.
Help us dream of that day of perfect love driving out fear,
Perfect goodness and wholeness, the healing complete.
Help us yearn and work towards that peace and justice, even now.

Give us kind and visionary hearts, like Barnabas,
That will encourage faith and generosity.
Make us a light for those struggling in the dark!

Amen