

# NORTH HILLS NOTES

## OUR GREAT GOD “Lonely Street & Other Sorrows” Frank Haynes July 30, 2011

In school year 1968 I was a student at Adelphian Academy, in Michigan. Some of the students discovered the poetry of Rod McKuen, an Oakland, CA native who was at that time 35 years old. His book Listen to the Warm had come out in 1967. The year before he published a book of melancholy poems called Stanyan Street & Other Sorrows.

In 1956, Elvis Presley released his first million-selling record Heartbreak Hotel.

Well since my baby left me,  
I found a new place to dwell;  
It's down at the end of lonely street  
At heartbreak hotel.

Sometimes our lives are so lonely and broken; we have so much worry and pain that it feels like no one cares. We may rightly ask, “God, do you see the hurts in my life? I am completely overwhelmed. Do you even care?”

GOD SAYS:

1. Yet the LORD LONGS to be gracious to you; he rises to show you COMPASSION.  
Isaiah 30:18 (NIV)
2. As a mother COMFORTS her child, so will I COMFORT you.  
Isaiah 66:13 (NIV)

### BUT WE ASK FOR PROOF

3. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you WANT TO GET WELL ?”

John 5:5, 6 (NIV)

### There are many similar examples:

- God has compassion and forgiveness for David after he commits murder and adultery.
- Even though Jairus had not accepted the ministry of Jesus, He still raised Jairus' daughter.
- Jonah refused God's instructions, ran away and tried to commit suicide, yet God sent a fish to rescue him.
- et. al.

4. When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, OUT OF WHOM HE HAD DRIVEN SEVEN DEMONS.

Mark 16:9 (NIV)

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)

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