

No, Not One is one of the three thousand hymns Johnson Oatman, Jr. (1856-1922) wrote over the course of his lifetime. (That's...*a lot* of hymns. If our church had only chosen to sing Oatman's hymns one at a time since our first Sunday in 2011, we would have only finished sometime this year.) But just as with other prolific hymn writers (e.g. Crosby, Wesley, Watts), the overwhelming majority of them are completely forgotten. Precious few hymns and spiritual songs are ever carried beyond one or two generations. Even if all of them are helpful, biblical, and Christ-centered in their time, most are forgettable.

Besides finding some brief notoriety for a few of his hymns later in life (like this one and "Count Your Many Blessings"), Oatman led a seemingly forgettable life. He was ordained as a minister and aspired to be as great a singer as his father, but he never became either. He spent most of his life serving the family business and working in insurance. He only started writing hymns in his late thirties as a means of personal worship, not knowing half his life had already passed. But even if no one ever had the chance to sing his words, Oatman knew that Jesus was worthy of singing about.

Jesus is wholly unique, eternal, and unchanging. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As this hymn helps us remember, there is no one like Him. And Oatman's hymn also helps us see how this ought to encourage us personally. Jesus is our friend and healer (V1), our sympathetic high priest and guiding shepherd (refrain), perfectly holy yet gentle and lowly (V2), our ever present help (V3), and our eternal gift, inheritance, and hope (V4).

Oatman may have seemed forgettable, but he knew that the One who mattered most never forgets a single one of His sheep. Because of Oatman's faithfulness, we can rejoice with him, "*there's not a friend like the lowly Jesus – no, not one!*"

Scriptures to consider:

Deuteronomy 31:6-8	Matthew 28:20	Ephesians 1:3-14
Isaiah 53	John 15:12-17	1 Peter 1:13-25
Matthew 11:25-30	Romans 10:5-13	

THE FIELDS CHURCH — HYMN OF THE MONTH

No, Not One

1. There's not a friend like the low - ly Je - sus—
2. No friend like Him is so high and ho - ly—
3. There's not an hour that He is not near us—
4. Was e'er a gift like the Sav - ior giv - en?

No, not one! no, not one! None else could heal all our
No, not one! no, not one! And yet no friend is so
No, not one! no, not one! No night so dark but His
No, not one! no, not one! Will He re - fuse us a

soul's dis - eas - es— No, not one! no, not one!
meek and low - ly— No, not one! no, not one!
love can cheer us— No, not one! no, not one!
home in heav - en? No, not one! no, not one!

Je - sus knows all a - bout our struggles, He will guide till the

day is done; There's not a friend like the

low - ly Je - sus— No, not one! no, not one!