



Come & See Step 2

One Solitary Life - *reflection*

This is a popular poem about the life of Jesus Christ. Although the author is frequently cited as "unknown" the poem is actually attributed to *James Allen Francis*.

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant.
He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30.
Then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office.
He never had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college.
He never lived in a big city. He never travelled 200 miles from the place where he was born.
He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness.
He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him.
His friends ran away. One of them denied him.
He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.
While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his garments, the only property he had on earth.
When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race.
I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one, solitary life.*

**Attributed to James Allen Francis.*

<http://tullylish.com/greetings/christmas/85-reflections> Tully Parish County Down, Ireland