

CROSS PURPOSES¹

On Calvary's hill, just out of town
My shattered world was upside down.
It felt like all I knew was cursed
And all my plans had been reversed!

I'd turned my back on everything
So I could follow this new king;
I thought that he would be the key
To comfort and prosperity.

And now he's there! Exposed! The shame!
Is this the reason that he came?
Is this a joke? Some cruel mistake?
The world's Messiah on a stake!

But in the "darkness" of this hour
I catch a glimmer of his power:
The power of love that took our hate
And did not once retaliate.

Such things are much too vast for me
I wonder if I'll ever see;
For it is hard to understand
The sovereign power of nail-pierced hand.

Help me Lord to comprehend
That in your death my life begins!
It seems like such a contradiction
That blessing comes from malediction.

But in your brokenness is health
And in your poverty my wealth.
Your death has brought to me my life.
The war you fought has calmed my strife.

And so dear Lord, to you I pray
For light to clarify my way;
So that the cross would be the norm
And all my life be cruciform.

The cross, the cross! It's only here
That everything in life is clear.
Thank you, Lord, you drank the cup,
At last, my world is right side up!

Pastor Stan

¹What Peter must have thought as he remembered the cross