

## LONG THE HUNTERS HAVE PREPARED

1. Long the hunters have prepared their steel.  
The priests and elders gather for the kill.  
Still they must delay,  
ready for the prey,  
knowing clearly the conclusion.
2. People longed to find a superman  
to drive the enemy right off their land.  
Jesus wasn't right,  
didn't want to fight;  
offered love - they didn't want that.
3. Crooked witnesses with lies to tell  
could not agree, but still the verdict fell.  
No-one made a stand  
for this blameless man.  
Jesus, you had no defenders.
4. Peter, waiting in the yard below,  
three times denied him,  
saying, 'I don't know!'  
Yes, he was afraid of a serving maid.  
Suddenly the cock was crowing.

*And we're no different than they were then;  
always try to save our own skin.  
Lord, have mercy on us,  
like you had mercy on them.*

5. He is sentenced to the sinner's fate;  
his crime, compassion. Now he feels their hate.  
Seemingly so weak, doesn't even speak,  
here's the lamb and here's the slaughter. (*Chorus*)

***The chief priests and the teachers of the Law were afraid of the people,  
and so they were trying to find a way of putting Jesus to death secretly.  
Luke 22:2***

*1987. When I'm unsure of what work I should be doing, and initiative is conspicuously absent from my life, I write a lot of songs. This was true in 1976, my first year as a parish worker, and in 1987, my last full year as a lay worker with tertiary students.*

*I was thinking of Bob Dylan's style of writing when I was working on this song, and I suspect both the lyrics and music reflect that influence.*