

## Don't Be Surprised

Tim O'Brien

She was heavy with child, he had a hungry look  
They were out on the road just waitin' to be took  
And I wasn't much better, all I owned in a sack  
But I had enough street smarts to watch my back  
And he asked me if I knew a place they could go  
To keep from the wind, away from the rain and the drivin' snow  
He said I'm good with my hands, I can work my way  
But I don't know a soul hear, there's not much I can pay  
I just shook my head and all I could say was  
Don't be surprised when they turn you away

I said your child will be born to a heartless place  
If he tries to do good, they'll just spit in his face  
He might heal the sick, make a lame man walk  
Draw big crowds of people to hear his talk  
But he'd make rich men nervous, they'd take him away  
Put him on trial, and twist his words just to make make him pay

He might be humble, the gentlest around  
But that won't stop some men from puttin' him down  
You see I don't have much faith in people these days  
So don't be surprised if they turn him away

I guess someday maybe Rome will fall  
Peace could live inside Jerusalem's walls  
Men will succeed at lots of things they try  
Grow food in the desert, even learn how to fly  
In two thousand years they'll look back on our day  
And study about us, wonder how in the world we could live this way  
But the more things change the more they stay the same  
Men will never give up their hurtful games  
A few will stand tall, a few will walk straight  
But most of us will fall to the fear and hate

I guess at the time it didn't seem so odd  
But that was Joseph and Mary, the mother of God  
I wouldn't change a word if I saw them today  
And I wouldn't be surprised if they turned them away  
He said I'm good with my hands, I can work my way  
But I don't know a soul hear, there's not much I can pay  
I just shook my head and all I could say was  
Don't be surprised when they turn you away