



The Gospel According to Goblin Market

August 17, 2025

Introducing Christina Rossetti: 1830-1894

She grew up in a house of writers and artists (brother Dante Gabriel Rossetti)

Her Christian faith was central to her life

A lifetime of illnesses plagued her

Goblin Market and Other Poems: first published book 1862

Working in London Diocesan Penitentiary in Highgate, 1859-1870

Goblin Market storyline

The Goblin Men's siren song: "Come buy!"

Two sisters: Laura and Lizzie

Laura partakes and comes under the spell-curse

Lizzie breaks the spell by sacrificial heroism

The Tragedy of Wrongdoing

In two acts: turning from fullness, turning to emptiness: **Jeremiah 2:11-13**

God is the ultimate good: we are completed in relation to Him: **Ephesians 3:19**

Everything outside of God is *privation*, not a "dark force" alternative substance

All temptation is thus rooted in lie: **John 8:44**

An "evil" entity's actions are desperate grasps at the air of imaginary good: **John 16:2**

The pursuit of empty aims leaves behind real-world consequences: **Romans 6:21-23**

The Good News of God's Self-Sacrificing Love

Jesus came to give His life as a ransom for many: **Mark 10:45**

A price paid to set free slaves, captives: **Leviticus 19:20; Exodus 21:30; Isaiah 45:13**

God chooses to forgive the world : **Romans 5:6-11; Luke 15**

Then provides a gracious answer to the death-consequences of the empty cistern

The "blood transfusion" exchange: His life for our death: **Colossians 1:20**

The good news invitation to all who thirst: come and drink freely! **Isaiah 55:1-3**