

THOSE DIRTY SHOES

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He dressed like a streetwise Jesus.
His opponent on the pulpit
commented about his slovenly appearance
unkempt hair, beard, and weary eyes
His opponent ridiculed his dirty shoes.

But those dirty shoes
took him miles
door to door
to listen to his neighbors.

Those dirty shoes
worked the garden
of his mother's house
who couldn't walk anymore.

Those dirty shoes
carried his brother
in his arms to the hospital
when he overdosed again.

Those dirty shoes
stood for hours
in the food kitchen
serving pasta to the homeless.

Those dirty shoes
brought him here
to speak the truth
When no one else found courage to.

He would rather have dirty shoes-
than clean lies.