#179 – HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

LEAD ME TO CALVARY

Background

- Written by Jennie Hussey (1874-1958).
  A 4th generation Quaker who wrote poetry from an early age. She is credited with the words to about 150 hymns. She led a difficult life with severe arthritis and spent much of her life caring for her invalid sister.
- Lead me to Calvary was published in 1921 with a decision to more openly proclaim her faith.
- She FIRST penned vs. 4. Shortly there after vss. 2 & 3. Later, verse 1 was added to the song.

Background

- Tune composed by William J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921). This tune was composed the final year of his life.
- He was a prolific composer including tunes (and some lyrics) to:
  Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus
  We have heard the Joyful Sound
  Redeemed How I love to proclaim it
  Coming Home
  Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah
- This song calls for us to remember what Jesus did for us as we surrender to Him.

Vs. 1 – King of my life

- *King of my life I crown Thee now -*
- A call to surrender to Him NOW.
- **John 18:33-19:12** – Jesus declares that He IS a king, though not of this world.
- When Jesus ascended to heaven, He was seated at the right hand of God to reign – **Acts 2:33-36, Mark 16:19**
- Is He king of your life? **Romans 10:9-10, Colossians 2:6, Matthew 7:21**

Vs. 1 – King of my life

- *Thine shall the glory be*
- **Revelation 5:11-12** – the Lamb is worthy of honor, glory and blessing.
- **1 Timothy 1:17** – To the King eternal… be honor and glory forever and ever.
- Glorifying Christ means we honor and praise Him. **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**

Vs. 1 – King of my life

- *Lest I forget Thy thorn crowned brow*
- **John 19:1-3** – describes how the soldiers mocked Jesus as He was being condemned.
  Little did they know what they were doing.
- It was this act that led to His being crucified.
- **1 Peter 2:21-24** – He endured humiliation and suffering because of OUR guilt.

Vs. 1 – King of my life

- *Lead me to Calvary*
- His condemnation led to Calvary. A description of the place where Jesus was crucified. **Luke 23:33** (NKJV, KJV), "the skull" (LSB, NASB).
- A study of the crucifixion demonstrates what a torturous death it was. Intentionally brutal to send a message.
- That cross is the central point of our faith – **1 Corinthians 1:23;** Remembering this, each week we partake of the Lord's Supper – **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

Vs. 2 – He was buried

- *Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid*
- We do not know the exact location, but the women knew – **Mark 15:47, Luke 23:55**
  Mark 15:44-45 verifies that Jesus had died.
- Knowing where His tomb was is important to establish His miraculous resurrection through which we have hope – **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

Vs. 2 – He was buried

- *Tenderly mourned and wept*
- This reminds us of the sorrow and grief surrounding the cross and those who loved Him.

Vs. 2 – He was buried

- *Angels in robes of white arrayed, Guarded Thee whilst Thou slept*
- The expression is not directly found in scripture, BUT we know that God was watching – **Psalm 16:9-10**
- We also know that angels were there, especially at His resurrection – **Matthew 28:1-7, Luke 24:4-8**

Vs. 3 – He arose and appeared

- *Let me like Mary, thru the gloom*
- **John 20:1 –** Mary and other women were first to the tomb (**Luke 24:1**)
- The death of a loved one is gloomy.
- But His gloom was soon faded.
  John 20:11-18 – Jesus appears to Mary.

Vs. 3 – He arose and appeared

- *Come with a gift to Thee*
- They brought spices to finish treating the body. (**Mark 16:1-2**)
- Do we come to Him with our gift? **Galatians 2:20, Romans 12:1-2, etc.**

Vs. 3 – He arose and appeared

- *Show to me now the empty tomb*
- He arose!
- Therein is our hope. **1 Peter 1:3-5, 1 Corinthians 15:12-22**
- He was also seen by many – **1 Corinthians 15:1-8.** Too many to deny it happened.
- *Lead me to Calvary.*

Vs. 4 – Will I bear my cross?

- *May I be willing Lord to bear, daily my cross for Thee*
- **Matthew 16:24 –** a part of being a disciple. The idea of a cross is our willingness to sacrifice and even suffer for Him. He must be first.

Vs. 4 – Will I bear my cross?

- *Even Thy cup of grief to share*
- Are we willing to suffer?
  Acts 5:41 – The apostles beaten
- **1 Peter 4:12-16** – are we partaking in Christ's sufferings?

Vs. 4 – Will I bear my cross?

- *Thou hast borne all for me*
- **2 Corinthians 8:8-9** – we know the grace of our Lord… He was rich, but became poor…
- **Hebrews 12:1-3** – with joy He endured the cross
- The inspiration behind this hymn was a woman wanting to be reminded that since Jesus suffered for us, we ought to be willing to endure whatever for Him without complaining.

The Chorus – Lest I forget

- *Lest I forget…*
- We need reminders! Even of things we are familiar with. **Cf. 2 Peter 1:12, 1 Corinthians 11:23, 2 Timothy 2:8-9, etc.**
- There is a reason we partake of the Lord's supper each week! **Acts 20:7, Luke 22:19-20**

The Chorus – Lest I forget

- *Lest I forget…Gethsemane*
- The garden where His suffering began.
  Luke 22:44
- *Lest I forget Thine agony.*

The Chorus – Lest I forget

- *Lest I forget…Thy love for me*
- Why did Jesus do what He did? **Romans 5:8, John 15:13, Ephesians 5:2, 1 John 3:16…**
- It is His love for us to prompts our love for Him and others – **1 John 4:10-11, 19**
- *Lead me to Calvary!*

Concluding thoughts

- This is a powerful hymn with many reminders of why we are here and why we ought to be willing to sacrifice, even in suffering, for Him.
- *Our hope lies in His death, burial and resurrection.*
- So, when you find yourself struggling and discouraged – remember Calvary!
  So that one day we can begin our eternal rest with Him!

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How often do your thoughts lead you to Calvary?