## Lead Me to calvary!

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The signs of the times are evident, and with all that is going on in the world we are compelled to look up and be ready to meet Jesus, for His return is just ahead.

The disciples were asking Jesus when the end would come—He told them that everyone who dwells on the face of the whole earth will be caught off-guard if not alert.

AV Luke 21:36 "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

More than ever, we need to take God's Truth seriously and to live it even more seriously. We need to say continuously: Lead Me to Calvary, and be impacted by the suffering, agony, and death He experienced for us!

The lyrics should often be recalled #148, Vs 1: King of my life, I crown Thee now; Thine shall the glory be; Lest I forget Thy thorncrowned brow, Lead me to Calvary.

If Jesus is King of our life, then our life is committed to Him, and we are obedient to His instructions. He is in charge of our life.

NIV Psalm 5:2 "Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray." Jesus is life. So, is *Jesus* ruling our life—or is *self*? Prior to the Last Supper, Jesus said to Peter and John AV Luke 22:8 "Go and prepare us the pass-

King and Lord; He is our God and Ruler of our

over, that we may eat. And the table is prepared with the words: In Remembrance of Me—Lest we forget what Jesus did for us—taking our place; paying our debt!

Although He is our *King* and our *God*, those who would not believe Him seriously opposed Him and committed the worst crime in human history. AV Mark 15:17 "They clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head."

We are anguished to think of how painful those thorns would be and how humiliating all that cruel treatment was—and we must never forget for one second that He endured all that He did, so we would be *forgiven* and *free* from the sins, mistakes, and wrong choices of the past.

Chorus: Lest I forget Gethsemane; Lest I forget Thine agony; Lest I forget Thy love for me, Lead me to Calvary.

After the Last Supper, Jesus and His disciples went to the Mount of Olives, where He said: AV Luke 22:40 "Pray that ye enter not into temptation."

Moving some distance away, He knelt and prayed 42 "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

Jesus knew the dreadful agony of the cross was just ahead, but He also knew that only He could make the sacrifice for the sins of the world.

AV Luke 22:43 "And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

A multitude with Judas then came to arrest Jesus—it was an intense encounter with the forces of evil and wickedness.

Jesus told His disciples to put back the sword and not strike in anger—saying to those arresting Him AV Luke 22:53 "This is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Jesus knew that He could pray, and the Father would send AV Matthew 26:53 "More than twelve legions of angels," but He would follow the plan and endure the suffering of the cross. It was the only way that sin would be dealt with, and Satan's power destroyed.

Vs 2: Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid; Tenderly mourned and wept; Angels in robes of light arrayed; Guarded Thee whilst Thou slept.

Jesus paid the price for the sins of all people when He gave His life on the cross—and that is why we say again and again: Lead Me to Calvary lest we forget that He suffered and died for us!

We can never forget and never stop thanking God for making it possible to have our sins forgiven; for having His Son take our place; for enduring the suffering; and now just asking us to believe He did that for our salvation.

Scripture was fulfilled. NKJV Luke 23:45 "Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. 46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' Having said this, He breathed His last."

Vs 3: Let me like Mary through the gloom, Come with a gift for Thee; Show to me now the empty tomb, Lead me to Calvary.

After three days, Jesus proves He is our living Savior who gives us the living Hope of spending all eternity with Him. It just takes the right choice—a choice no one would ever regret!

After paying for the sins of the world by shedding His Blood on the cross, Jesus appears to His disciples and to those who believed in Him. Two angels in white robes say to the women who had come to anoint the body:

NKJV Mark 16:6 "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. 7 "But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

Vs 4: May I be willing, Lord, to bear daily my cross for Thee; Even Thy cup of grief to share; Thou has borne all for me.

Chorus: Lest I forget Gethsemane; Lest I forget Thine agony; Lest I forget Thy love for me, Lead me to Calvary.

All of that had to be *done* to pay the *price* for sin and rebellion and the evil intentions that can lie deep in our heart! All of that is out of the way when we sincerely repent.

Now the *choice* is ours—the choice to allow *God* to have His *rightful* place in our life; to totally *change* our heart, so that we desire to have what *He* wants us to have! A Christlike attitude toward everyone and everything.

After enduring all that He did for us, may we never allow that to just go by without seeing the needed change from the inside out.

We may have to endure difficult things and situations and insults at times to prove that we *value* what is *most* valuable—a totally *changed* way to live, talk, converse, treat people; the way we work and the advice we give to our children—all *changed* to be what God *wants* it to be.

We say what our Savior said: Luke 22:42 "*Not my will, but thine, be done,*" Lord, You are *King* of my life and the *Savior* of my soul.

Now it is our opportunity to follow where He leads—AV Mark 8:34 "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Taking up His cross may include meeting unfair and mean treatment by someone. It may include being silent when insulted or put-down; It may include the boss saying: Our company had lower sales than usual, there will be no pay increases; it may include AV Matthew 5:44 loving people who think we are an enemy; it may include blessing someone who is cursing us; It may include doing something good for someone who acts badly toward us; and it definitely means praying for anyone who is persecuting us or just using us to get some advantage.

It will be worth it all to meet such things scripturally and eventually meeting Jesus in Paradise. We are willing to endure anything because of the *price* He paid for that *change* to be made in us.

AV Mark 8:35 "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

We meet difficult situations and harsh treatment in a godly and Christlike way because we love the Lord and are willing to do whatever He *tells* us to do. We know that we will profit immensely from taking that right attitude.

AV Mark 8:36 "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Once the door is closed, there is no way to have it open again—*now* is our opportunity; *now* is the day to meet *things* and *people* and *wrongs* in the way Jesus *said* to meet them.

In Jesus' parable NKJV Matthew 25:11, those who did *not* prepare; did *not* keep their faith and trust on Jesus; and were *not* ready when He arrived, said to Him: "Lord, Lord, open to us!"

12 "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Vs 4: May I be willing, Lord, to bear daily my cross for Thee; Even Thy cup of grief to share; Thou has borne all for me.

Chorus: Lest I forget Gethsemane; Lest I forget Thine agony; Lest I forget Thy love for me, Lead me to Calvary.



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