

Notes:

Sermon Text

Subject

Spiritual “To Do List”
(things God has shown me today)

When Apologies Don't Come

In the past after yet another failure, I often thought, “Isn't God tired of my asking His forgiveness?” Then I discovered a comforting verse in Psalm 146:5, “God takes pleasure in those who...hope in his mercy.” It was as though He said, “I'm especially delighted when you hope in My mercy rather than despair because you've failed.” What comfort this verse often gives me.

Then one day someone hurt me, and I thought I should receive an apology. None came. I prayed for grace, and the Lord lifted my feeling of hurt—except when I'd begin thinking about the situation. How tempted I was to dwell on it!

One morning in my devotions I reread the verse that means so much to me when I fail. “God takes pleasure in those who hope in his mercy.” The Holy Spirit whispered, “Can you be as grateful for My mercy for him as you are when I give My mercy to you?”

Could I still rejoice in this truth when I thought someone had wronged me? Was I delighting in the fact that he received God's mercy? Was I allowing God to take pleasure in me because I was hoping in His mercy for another? Or did only realizing I'm the recipient of His mercy comfort me? I began to thank God for His mercy for the one who had hurt me and, with relief, suddenly realized I had forgiven him from my heart.

Even if someone does not come seeking my forgiveness, I have an obligation to grant forgiveness and extend mercy—even if the person has sinned against me repeatedly and severely. My forgiveness of others is a pre-requisite for me to receive forgiveness.

“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,” is a prayer asking God to forgive us to the same degree we forgive others. Jesus adds a postscript to this prayer: “But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:15). If any bitterness or unkindness remains, if we do not clearly, fully, and from the heart, forgive all men their trespasses, God cannot fully forgive us.

Give the gift of Joy!

—Aletha Hinthorn (Used by permission)

PHOTO: RRRRO 3-25-2021

*Wait for the Lord;
For with the Lord there is mercy,
And with Him is abundant redemption.
Psalm 130:7*



Majestic Sweetness

SAMUEL STENNETT

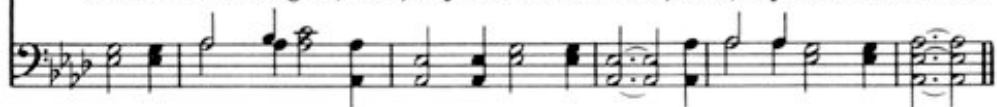
THOMAS HASTINGS



1. Ma - jes - tic sweetness sits enthroned Up - on the Saviour's brow; His head with
2. No mor - tal can with Him compare A - mong the sons of men; Fair - er is
3. He saw me plunged in deep dis - tress, And flew to my re - lief; For me He
4. To Him I owe my life and breath And all the joys I have; He makes me
5. Since from His boun - ty I re - ceive Such proofs of love di - vine, Had I a



ra - diant glories crowned, His lips with grace o'er - flow, His lips with grace o'er - flow.
He than all the fair Who fill the heav'nly train, Who fill the heav'nly train.
bore the shameful cross, And car - ried all my grief, And car - ried all my grief.
tri - umph o - ver death, And saves me from the grave, And saves me from the grave.
thousand hearts to give, Lord, they should all be Thine; Lord, they should all be Thine.



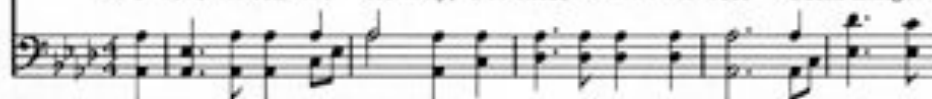
I Love to Tell the Story

KATHERINE HANKEY

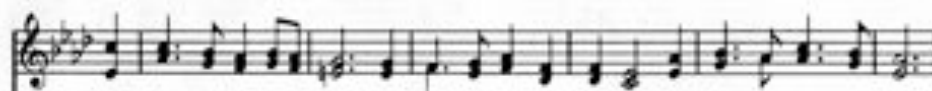
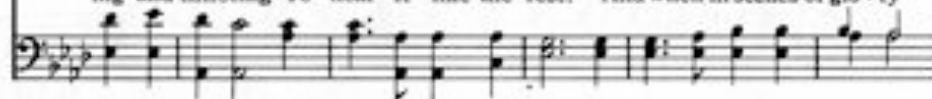
WILLIAM G. FISCHER



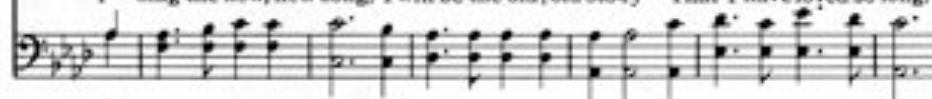
1. I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove, Of Je - sus
2. I love to tell the sto - ry; More won - der - ful it seems Than all the
3. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'Tis pleas - ant to re - peat What seems each
4. I love to tell the sto - ry, For those who know it best Seem hunger -



and His glo - ry, Of Je - sus and His love. I love to tell the sto - ry
gold - en fan - cies Of all our gold - en dreams. I love to tell the sto - ry,
time I tell it More won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to tell the sto - ry,
ing and thirsting To hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of glo - ry



Be - cause I know 'tis true. It sat - is - fies my longings As nothing else can do.
It did so much for me; And that is just the rea - son I tell it now to thee.
For some have never heard The message of salvation From God's own holy Word.
I sing the new, new song, 'Twill be the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.



CHORUS



I love to tell the sto - ry! 'Twill be my theme in glo - ry



To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.

