

**Largs Church of the Nazarene**  
**30 August 2020**

**O God, our help in ages past**

Isaac Watts

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thy arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come:  
Be Thou our God while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.

**He leadeth me**

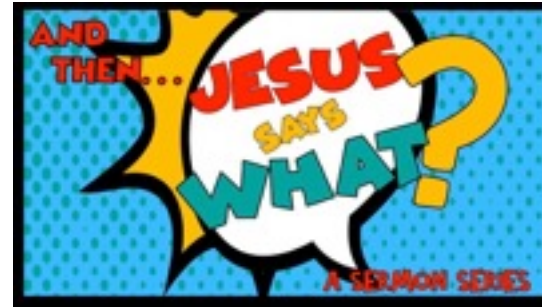
Joseph H. Gilmore

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

He leadeth me, He leadeth me;  
By His own hand He leadeth me:  
His faithful follower I would be,  
For by his hand He leadeth me.

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
Sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,  
By waters calm, o'er troubled sea,  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. [Refrain]



**Mark 4 (NRSV)**

1 Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. 2 He began to teach them many things

in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 3 "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. 6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. 8 Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." 9 And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

10 When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11 And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; 12 in order that (*hina*)

'they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.'"

13 And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. 16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. 17 But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. 20 And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

## Jesus Says WHAT About Parables? (Mark 4:1-20)

- **Parables**

- *Parabolē* (literally, to throw alongside)
  - *Pará*: *alongside; beside*
  - *Bállō*: *to throw; to cast*
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- **The Parable of the Sower**

- **The Key to the Parables**
  - “Listen!” (from *akouó*)
  - Sowing is “throwing alongside”
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- *To you has been given the secret of the Kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables, IN ORDER THAT ‘they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand, so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.’*

- *hina*: in order that
  - *hoti*: because (Matthew)
  - Isaiah 6:1-13
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- **The difference is not the SEED, it’s the SOIL**

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- **The “secret” of the Kingdom of God**

- *Mustérion*: secret, mystery, revelation
  - An invitation to follow
  - Jesus calls us to be like him
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## **I stand amazed in the presence**

Chas. H. Gabriel

I stand amazed in the presence  
Of Jesus, the Nazarene  
And wonder how He could love me  
A sinner, condemned, unclean

Refrain:

How marvellous, how wonderful  
And my song shall ever be  
How marvellous, how wonderful  
Is my Saviour’s love for me

For me it was in the garden  
He prayed not my will but Thine  
He had no tears for His own griefs  
But sweat-drops of blood for mine [Refrain]

He took my sins and my sorrows  
He made them His very own  
He bore the burden to Calvary  
And suffered and died alone [Refrain]

## **Doxology**

Thomas Ken

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost