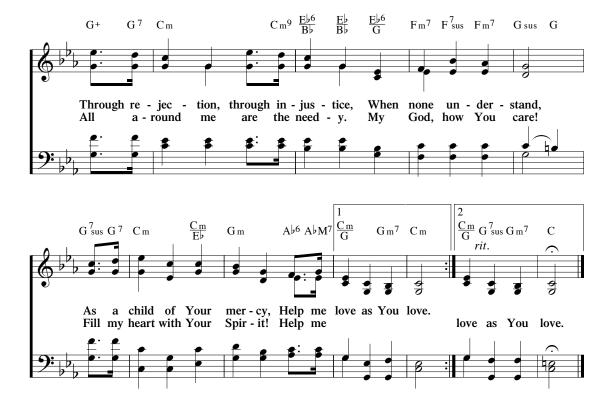
As You Love

Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 5:43-48; John 13:34-35; 15:12-14, 17; Romans 5:6-8; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 3:14-18



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

HAHN 7.7.7.6.7.7.7.6.8.5.7.6.



TOPICS: Maundy Thursday; Lent-Easter; Jesus' Suffering & Death; Relationships; Serving in Christ's Name; Suffering for Christ

LEAD-IN: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Forgiving Each Other

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger...Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:31-32, NIV)

Lord, I feel I've been treated unfairly by that Christian brother. The hurt is deep, and the damage is more than just emotional. In spite of all our conversation, he and I have not been able to agree on the issue.

Jesus, You long for us to be one in mind and heart. What are my responsibilities in this situation? How do You want me to react?

Lord, what is the loving attitude to take? Help me to extend true understanding to that one for any human weakness or clouded judgment. Jesus, help me to forgive him completely. I pray that You will strengthen and bless him and his work. If there is anything I can do to help him and make his task easier and more effective, Lord, enable me to do it.

I pray also that You give me a continuing sense of my own inadequacy and clouded judgment. Take away my blindness, and clothe me with humility.

Lord, what attitude would faith have me take in this situation? I know Your hand is working, and I accept this circumstance as from You. Merciful Lord, put anger behind me. Build up Your work, and don't let this or anything else hinder it. Bless Your children, and nurture unity among us. Help me to be a gracious distributor of blessing and acceptance and unconditional love.

Lord, fill me with Your Spirit-You who were slandered yet didn't lash back; You who willingly suffered for the salvation of others; You who in Your pain and death rejoiced in doing Your Father's will.

Jesus, my Lord, give me Your Spirit.

© 1999 by Ken Bible