

# Lead Me Gently Home Father

## Isa. 48:17; Ps. 31:3

Introduction: The Wonderful Hymns Of Will Lamartine Thompson

(1847-1909) Born: November 7, 1847, East Liverpool, Ohio.

Died: September 20, 1909, New York, New York.

Buried: Riverview Cemetery, East Liverpool, Ohio.

He wrote 4 songs that we are all familiar with.

Jesus Is All the World to Me #451

There's a Great Day Coming #283

Lead Me Gently Home, Father #60

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling #274

“Rebuffed in an early attempt to sell his songs to a commercial publisher, Thompson started his own publishing company. He later expanded, opening a store to sell pianos, organs and sheet music. Both a lyricist and composer, he ensured he would always remember words or melodies that came to him at odd times: “No matter where I am, at home or hotel, at the store or traveling, if an idea or theme comes to me that I deem worthy of a song, I jot it down in verse. In this way I never lose it.”

Today let us consider from the scriptures the concept of “Lead Me Gently Home, Father.”

These words wonderfully express the thoughts of the scriptures.

**Isa. 48:17,18** “Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; [“I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit. Who leads you in the way you should go.](#)

**18** If only you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your well-being would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.”

**Ps. 31:3** “For Thou art my rock and my fortress; For Thy name’s sake [Thou wilt lead me and guide me.](#)”

### I. Provision “In Life’s Darkest Hours Father, When Life’s Troubles Come” (2<sup>nd</sup> Verse)

#### A. David’s Words In Troubled Times

**Ps. 23** “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**2** He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

**3** He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.

**4** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

**5** Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

**6** Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

God is the source of Deliverance, Forgiveness, Help and Strength.

**Ps. 34** “I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**2** My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear it and rejoice.

**3** O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.

**4** I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears.

**5** They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces shall never be ashamed.

**6** This poor man cried and the LORD heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.

**7** The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.

**8** O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

**9** O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him, there is no want.

**10** The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.

**11** Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

**12** Who is the man who desires life, And loves length of days that he may see good?

- 13 Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.  
 14 Depart from evil, and do good; Seek peace, and pursue it.  
 15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.  
 16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth.  
 17 The righteous cry and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.  
 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, And saves those who are crushed in spirit.  
 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous; But the LORD delivers him out of them all.  
 20 He keeps all his bones; Not one of them is broken.  
 21 Evil shall slay the wicked; And those who hate the righteous will be condemned.  
 22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants; And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.”

## B. Great Provision Prophesied

**Isa. 48:8-10** “Thus says the LORD, “In a favorable time I have answered You, And in a day of salvation I have helped You; And I will keep You and give You for a covenant of the people, To restore the land, to make them inherit the desolate heritages;

9 Saying to those who are bound, ‘Go forth,’ To those who are in darkness, ‘Show yourselves.’ Along the roads they will feed, And their pasture will be on all bare heights.

10 They will not hunger or thirst, Neither will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; For He who has compassion on them will lead them, And will guide them to springs of water.”

This same language is later used as a description of heaven.

**Rev. 7:14-17** “And I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes.”

But here it is speaking of the glories in the church.

## C. Grace, Mercy And Help In The Time Of Need

**Heb. 4:14-16** “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.”

## II. Guidance “Sin No More Shall Tempt Me, Never From Thee I’ll Roam, If Thou’lt Only Lead Me” (1<sup>st</sup> Verse)

**Ps. 32:8,9** “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

9 Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you.”

## A. True Wisdom

**Ps. 119:16-18, 98-100** “I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.

17 Deal bountifully with Thy servant, That I may live and keep Thy word.

18 Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law.”

**98-100** “Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine.

99 I have more insight than all my teachers, For Thy testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Thy precepts.”

True wisdom comes from the word of God, which this psalm extols at great length.

## B. Away From Sin

God's word especially guides us away from sin.

**Ps. 25:8-11** "Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

**9** He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way.

**10** All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies."

**1 Jn. 2:1** "My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"

## C. Leading To Salvation

**2 Tim. 3:14-17** "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them;

**15** and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

**16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

**17** that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

God's guidance is for a purpose – to save us from sin.

## III. Guides "Be Thou Near To Keep Me, Take Me As Thine Own" (3<sup>rd</sup> Verse)

### A. The Ultimate Shepherd

#### The Good Shepherd

**Jn. 10:1-6,11-14** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.

**2** But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.

**3** To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out.

**4** When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

**5** And a stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."

**6** This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

**11** I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

**12** He who is a hireling, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, beholds the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and flees, and the wolf snatches them, and scatters them.

**13** He flees because he is a hireling, and is not concerned about the sheep.

**14** I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me"

#### Great Shepherd Of Sheep

**Heb. 13:20** "Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord"

#### Chief Shepherd

**1 Pet. 5:4** "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

#### Shepherd And Guardian Of Souls

**1 Pet. 2:25** "For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls."

He showed the way, taught the way, and cared enough to do all for the sheep.

**Matt. 9:36,37** "And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.

**37** Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."

### B. Shepherds And Teachers

**Acts 20:28** "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

**1 Tim. 4:16** “Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

These must also show and teach the way from intense concern.

**1 Thess. 2:7-12** “But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.

**8** Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

**9** For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

**10** You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;

**11** just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,

**12** so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

#### IV. Our Responsibilities “For I Cannot Live Without Thee” (3<sup>rd</sup> Verse)

##### A. Be Content With God’s Provision

**Matt. 6:31-34** “Do not be anxious then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we clothe ourselves?’

**32** For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

**33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.”

**Heb. 13:5,6** “Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,”

**6** so that we confidently say, “THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT SHALL MAN DO TO ME?”

This is the cure for all our worldliness and many of our doubts.

##### B. Receive The Teaching

All Christians must have initially received the word.

**Acts 2:41** “So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

Our receptive attitude and dependence on God’s word must always continue.

**Heb. 13:9** “Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were thus occupied were not benefited.”

**1 Thess. 4:1,2** “Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you may excel still more.

**2** For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.”

##### C. Be Led By Scriptural Leaders

There are many who refuse the leadership and calling of God.

**Matt. 23:37** “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.”

We must follow the leaders that God give us.

**Heb. 13:17** “Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

#### V. Some Refuse To Be Led Home – “Lest I Fall Upon The Wayside” (Chorus)

##### A. This Is Not New

**Isa. 48:17-20** “Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, Who leads you in the way you should go.

**18** If only you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your well-being would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

**19** Your descendants would have been like the sand, And your offspring like its grains; Their name would never be cut off or destroyed from My presence.”

**Jer. 6:16,17** “Thus says the LORD, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you shall find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’

**17** And I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’”

## B. We Must Guard Against This In The Church

**Rev. 3:4** “But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy.”

**2 Thess. 3:14,15** “And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame.

**15** And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.”

Teaching God's word is the only preventative or cure.

**2 Tim. 4:1-5** “I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

**2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

**3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;

**4** and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

**5** But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

We always be must be earnest in our teaching because of the results of not following.

## C. Destruction Awaits All Who Won't Be Led

**Deut. 1:43-46** “So I spoke to you, but you would not listen. Instead you rebelled against the command of the LORD, and acted presumptuously and went up into the hill country.

**44** And the Amorites who lived in that hill country came out against you, and chased you as bees do, and crushed you from Seir to Hormah.

**45** Then you returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD did not listen to your voice, nor give ear to you.

**46** So you remained in Kadesh many days, the days that you spent there.”

The wilderness generation is always the example of how not to be led home by God.

## D. Those Who Repent Are Always Welcomed Back

**Isa. 30:15-18** “For thus the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said, “In repentance and rest you shall be saved. In quietness and trust is your strength.” But you were not willing,

**16** And you said, “No, for we will flee on horses,” Therefore you shall flee! “And we will ride on swift horses,” Therefore those who pursue you shall be swift.

**17** One thousand shall flee at the threat of one man, You shall flee at the threat of five; Until you are left as a flag on a mountain top, And as a signal on a hill.

**18** Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.”