

d e v o t i o n

Not many from this generation will recognize that name Charles A. Tindley, an early 20th century black Methodist minister who was known for his pioneering song-writing abilities. But many will recognize some of the spiritual hymns written by this Berlin, Maryland farm boy, whose father was a slave and his mother a free born, that eventually became staples in the church. Included in the list of more than 30 hymns are Let Jesus Fix It for You, The Storm Is Passing Over, We'll Understand It By and By, and I Shall Overcome, which years later was modified to become the anthem for the Civil Rights Movement.

Often referred to as the "father of gospel music," Tindley used his personal experience of escaping slavery and poverty to convey certain messages in his sermons and hymns. He also drew from his relationships with people, and the manner in which he often helped them deal with their problems.

One such instance is related in a story of Tindley's encounter with a man who was a constant worrier who went to Tindley for advice in dealing with his problems. Reportedly, Tindley looked at the man with concern, and then said: "My advice to you is put all your troubles in a sack, take them to the Lord, and leave them there."

Shortly after that, Tindley was inspired to write a song based on that same piece of advice, which resulted in the popular spiritual hymn, Leave It There. Loosely based on the scripture in Psalm 55:22, which urges us all to give our problems to the Lord, knowing He will not only handle them, but sustain and keep us in the process, continues to be a timely message that still rings clear today.

Read these words from the first stanza, and you'll see what I mean:

If the world from you withhold of its silver and its gold,
And you have to get along with meager fare,
Just remember, in His Word, how He feeds the little bird;
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.
Leave it there, leave it there,
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.
If you trust and never doubt, he will surely bring you out.
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

Do you have problems you don't know how to solve? Take them to the Lord, then leave them there. He knows just what to do.

Leave It There!

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

1 Peter 5:7, New Living Translation



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