

Message Reflections

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Reflections accompany the [weekly message](#).

May 25, 2018, is a day I don't remember many details of, and it is a day I will not quickly forget. I remember where I was and even the words I saw in text on my phone. I was sitting at work, and I looked down at my phone to read a text from a friend... "Are your kids ok?" I said, "I assume so, they are in school." I thought that's weird, then I read, "There was a shooting at Noblesville schools this morning."

In that moment, my world stopped. The rest of the day was a blur. This is what I remember... we hugged our kids a little tighter that night, and we prayed for protection over them a little harder in the days to follow. But the last thing I wanted to do on that day was sing. My head was full of "what if" questions. You know the ones, the questions we ask that aren't true, but fill our hearts with fear. With every "what if" question I asked of God, there was one word He gave me, WHEN.

He reminded me of the words of Jesus to His disciples, "In this world you will have trouble, and WHEN they come, take heart for I have overcome the world."

He reminded me of the words from the book of James, "consider it pure joy WHEN you face trials of all kinds, because they test your faith and produce perseverance."

He reminded me of the words from Psalm 46, "The Lord God Almighty is our refuge. WHEN troubles come, He is our ever-present help... Be still and know I AM God."

No, on May 25, 2018, I did not want to sing, and at the same time, I had so much unresolved emotion, so much fear, I had no other outlet, but to sing... so I picked up my guitar, and I wrote and sang the following to the Lord:

When

When the world's undone, I trust in You, to You I run

When everything is dark, I will be still and know You are

For You, You know all things

You're my Maker, my Creator, My King of Kings

And You, You never let me go
You lift me up, You hold me close... When
When I am afraid, My Jesus, I call Your Name
When I don't understand, here's my life, I place it in Your hands
For You, You know all things
You're my Maker, my Creator, My King of Kings
And You, You never let me go
You lift me up, You hold me close... When

Last night, I was at the Marching Millers Black & Gold Invitational. I watched and listened as hundreds of kids from all over the state of Indiana made beautiful music together. I watched the joy on my daughter's face as she led her band in their show, "A Million Dreams." The show is a celebration of life and the possibilities of the world we can make together. And there in the middle of the show, there was a choir of Noblesville middle school kids from East and West singing a joyful song. Just four years after the darkest day at a Noblesville middle school, a choir of middle school kids were singing a song of hope. My heart was filled with Joy.

As I reflect on this now, the Lord instructs my heart, WHEN all of life is good and the way it should be, we should sing. WHEN life hurts and nothing makes sense, we should sing. We should sing, because of the good things... we should sing, because we need new perspective to deal with the emotions of the bad. And, we should sing, because in every WHEN of life, we know and are confident that God is faithful, and He is with us in every WHEN of life. We should sing because He alone is worthy of our singing. Be blessed and sing.

- Read Psalm 13. When you don't feel like singing, how does the knowledge that Jesus is with you in the trouble of life, help you sing?
- Read Psalm 100. When you consider the Lord is God, He made you, and you are his, what is the song that fills your heart?