

Conceal Me

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Steadfast Love – A Lenten Playlist

our series for the season

- A playlist? For the season of Lent? A Lenten playlist?
- What an odd idea. Lent is often seen as a somber and even silent season.
- Certainly, there is space for contemplation, for embracing the quiet, for being still to seek out God.
- Many of us, however, find music a helpful tool for contemplation.
- However, you use them, let music be a guide into worship this Lent.

Steadfast Love - Conceal Me

Hide Me Rock of Ages

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOGLh6Kfm7I>

“Rock of Ages” is a Christian hymn written by Augustus M. Toplady, with music by Thomas Hastings. This very personal hymn uses pronouns such as *I* and *me* rather than *we* and *our*, focusing on individual salvation.

Legend says that Toplady wrote the hymn during a stormy incident in England. While traveling along the gorge in Burrington Combe, he was caught in a fierce storm and took shelter in a gap in the gorge, where he wrote the original lyrics. Some disagree on whether the event actually occurred; nevertheless, the rock is now marked with a plaque that reads: “Rock of Ages: This rock derives its name from the well known hymn written about 1762 by the Rev A M Toplady who was inspired whilst sheltering in this cleft during a storm.”

Why Would Someone Want To Be Concealed

- **Privacy:** Concealment can provide a sense of privacy and protection from unwanted attention.
- **Security:** Concealing identity or whereabouts can enhance personal security and safety.
- **Anonymity:** Some individuals prefer to remain anonymous in certain situations or contexts.
- **Avoidance of Harassment:** Concealment can help avoid harassment or stalking.
- **Protection of Identity:** Concealing identity may be necessary in sensitive or high-risk situations.
- **Escape from Public Scrutiny:** Concealment allows individuals to escape public scrutiny or judgment.
- **Undercover Operations:** Law enforcement or investigative purposes may require concealment for operations.
- **Protecting Vulnerable Individuals:** Concealment can protect vulnerable individuals from harm or exploitation.
- **Maintaining Confidentiality:** Concealment ensures confidentiality and protects sensitive information.
- **Cultural or Religious Reasons:** In some cultures or religions, concealment of identity or beliefs is valued or required.

Why Would Someone Want To Be Covered?

- **Protection or Security:** Being "covered" can mean having someone or something that provides protection, like insurance, safety, or guidance. For example, "You're covered" might mean that you have adequate protection or support in a given situation.
- **Concealment or Camouflage:** It can refer to being hidden or disguised from view. For instance, someone might be "covered" if they are shielded from attention or scrutiny.
- **Financial Support:** In financial contexts, being "covered" often refers to having sufficient resources or insurance to deal with a potential loss or expense. For example, "health insurance covers you" means your insurance plan will handle certain medical costs.
- **Responsibility or Obligation:** It can also refer to fulfilling responsibilities or obligations. For example, "He's covered for the day" might mean someone has taken care of a task or role.
- **Religious or Spiritual Protection:** In some contexts, being "covered" might refer to divine protection or guidance, such as when someone says they feel "covered by the grace of God."
- **In Music or Entertainment:** "Covered" refers to a version of a song performed by someone other than the original artist.

Today's Message – Conceal Me



Luke 13:34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

Jesus' Response to Threats (Luke 13:31-33)

- **Pharisees Warn Jesus of Herod's Plot**
 - "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."
- **Jesus' Fearless Resolve**
 - "Go tell that fox... I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow."
- **Commitment to Divine Mission**
 - Jesus affirms his determination to continue his work, undeterred by threats.
- Refers to his ministry as a prophet on a divine mission.

Jesus' Lament Over Jerusalem (Luke 13:34-35)

- **Jesus' Compassion for Jerusalem**

- "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!"
- Jesus uses the metaphor of a hen gathering her chicks to express his desire to protect Jerusalem.

- **The Rejection and Reconciliation**

- The people of Jerusalem persist in rejecting divine messengers.
- Jesus foreshadows his own fate and the consequences of rejecting God's plan.
- "You will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Jesus Covers Us with Protection

- **Key Point:** *Protection from spiritual dangers*
- Just like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings to shield them from predators, Jesus covers us with His protection. In a world filled with temptations, hardships, and spiritual warfare, Jesus offers a refuge where we can find safety. His presence is a safeguard against the dangers of sin and the attacks of the enemy, allowing us to live in His peace and security.

Jesus Covers Us with Nurturance

- **Key Point:** *Nurturing love and guidance*
- A hen doesn't just protect her chicks; she nurtures them with warmth and care. Similarly, Jesus provides us with the spiritual nourishment we need to grow in our faith. He nurtures us through His Word, the Holy Spirit, and the Church. His guidance and support help us become stronger, more faithful followers of Christ, equipping us to face life's challenges with resilience and trust in God's plan.

Jesus Covers Us with Comfort

- **Key Point:** *Comfort in times of distress*
- In times of sorrow, confusion, or hardship, we can take comfort in the fact that Jesus offers His tender care and presence. Like a hen covering her chicks from a storm, Jesus embraces us in our pain and provides peace that surpasses understanding. His compassion allows us to rest in His love, knowing He is always with us, comforting and encouraging us through life's trials.

Jesus Covers Us with Salvation

- **Key Point:** *Salvation and eternal life through His sacrifice*
- Jesus' desire to gather us under His wings reflects His deep longing to bring us into the Kingdom of God. By His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus covers our sins with His grace, offering us salvation and eternal life. This covering is not just for protection in this life but for our eternal security, guaranteeing us a place in heaven if we trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

Jesus Covers Us with Unity

- **Key Point:** *Bringing believers together in faith*
- As a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, Jesus also calls us to be united as one body of believers. He creates a community where we can share in the love and support of fellow Christians. Jesus' covering unites us in a spiritual family that transcends differences and fosters a shared commitment to love and serve God and one another.

Jesus' Love Covers Us

- Through His protection, nurturance, comfort, salvation, and unity, Jesus continuously covers us with His love and grace.
- The image of the hen gathering her chicks under her wings is a powerful reminder of His deep care and the ways He offers spiritual covering for all believers.
- By embracing this covering, we are secure in Him, empowered to live out our faith with courage and love.

What then does this mean for us?

Our Life Lessons - 1

- **Key Verse:** Luke 13:34 – "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing!"
- **Purpose:** To reflect on the Christian life lessons drawn from Jesus' expression of longing for Jerusalem.

God's Heart of Compassion

- **Lesson:** Jesus expresses deep compassion and longing for Jerusalem despite their rejection.
- **Scriptural Insight:** Jesus desires to gather His people in love and protection.
- **Application:** Remind us of God's unconditional love, offering protection even when we are unfaithful.
- **Image Idea:** Picture of a mother hen with her chicks.

Human Rejection of God's Love

- **Lesson:** Humanity's tendency to reject God's love and guidance.
- **Scriptural Insight:** Jerusalem's resistance to God's messengers.
- **Application:** Reflect on our openness to God's message and the danger of rejecting His call.
- **Image Idea:** Illustration of a closed door or a person turning away.

Parental Imagery of God

- **Lesson:** God as a nurturing, protective parent.
- **Scriptural Insight:** Jesus likens His longing to a mother hen gathering her chicks under her wings.
- **Application:** Embrace God's role as a loving protector who desires our safety and well-being.
- **Image Idea:** Image of a hen gathering her chicks.

Call to Repentance and Acceptance

- **Lesson:** The importance of responding to God's call with repentance and acceptance.
- **Scriptural Insight:** Jesus laments that the people were unwilling to heed His call.
- **Application:** Examine our hearts—are we open to God's guidance and willing to be gathered under His care?
- **Image Idea:** A path leading toward a bright light or open arms.

Call to Repentance and Acceptance

- **Summary:** Luke 13:34 teaches us about God's compassion, human rejection, God's nurturing nature, and the call to repentance.
- **Call to Action:** Let us reflect on how we are responding to God's love, guidance, and invitation to protection.
- **Final Thought:** Embrace God's loving invitation and respond with an open, repentant heart.

Rock of Ages

- God prepared a place for you
- Keep you safe
- Seek him out
- Be enfolded in God's love
- Be saved from dangers and threats
- Seek Salvation in God