

I Can't Make You Love Me

It has to be one of the saddest songs I've ever heard. The sadness and sorrow in this ballad sung by Bonnie Raitt cuts the soul like none other. Having been married to my wife for over 50 years, I can't imagine lying next to her and hearing the words, "*I Can't Make You Love Me, If You Don't*". To be with someone you love and they don't or won't return that love causes a person to be moodily downcast. No wonder they call these kind of songs the blues. I listen to the song and it's hard to keep the tears back. Such dejection. To be so inwardly disheartened, painfully crushed, and spiritually heartbroken.

It must have been something like that for our Master. Remember when he was lambasting the religious leaders for their hypocritical religion. He ended his dressing-down with the words that could be called a lament. He said, "*O 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, but you were not willing*" (Matthew 23:37).

Can't you hear the pain, the sorrow, the agony in His voice? Can't you see the sadness, the torment, the longing in His eyes? Can't you see the whip lashes on His back, the open slash from a spear in His side, the nail holes in His hands and feet?

For the love of God, can't you see how much He loves? He has laid down His life for you. He has paid the ransom for your soul. He has done all within His power for you. But -----He can't make you love Him if you don't.

Prayer:

Oh God, help us in this hour to respond to Your love. Help us to see Jesus as the Lamb, the sacrifice made for us so that we can know You. As we eat this communion bread and drink this communion wine, we do so in reverence, because we remember what great love our Master, Jesus, had for us in that He would lay down His life for us. Oh God, we do love You...we do love You...we do love You. Amen

iSongwriters: Allen Shamblin and Mike Reid, "I Can't Make You Love Me, If You Don't" The last verse speaks volumes: "'cause I can't make you love me if you don't. You can't make your heart feel something it won't. Here in the dark, in these final hours, When I lay down, I'll feel the power. But you won't, I can't make you love me if you don't."