

## **Behind the Hymn: Lay Aside Your Passing Pleasures**

For many Christians, fasting and self-denial are important ways of celebrating Lent. But I didn't see those ideas expressed in a hymn. So in August, 2004, I felt drawn to write one.

Self-denial is a positive, not a negative. Sacrifice is giving up something good for something better. Jesus, who made the ultimate sacrifice, repeatedly taught us this important truth:

*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. (Matthew 13:44, NIV)*

*The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one, of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. (Matthew 13:45-46, NIV)*

*If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. (Mark 8:34-35, NIV)*

Jesus turned loose of many of the good things of life, such as comfort and human acceptance, in order to embrace what was better: unbroken oneness with His Father, constant peace, constant sufficiency, and the salvation of needy people. He calls us to do the same.

Turn loose of anything that draws You away from Christ, and embrace Him single-mindedly, joyfully, with your whole heart. You'll find that you've only given up what was less and gained what is so much greater.

*--Ken Bible*

**Hymn: [Lay Aside Your Passing Pleasures](#)**