

## Hymns 101 – I Love to Tell the Story

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."  
Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

*Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.*  
Acts 8:4 (ESV)

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.  
*Refrain*

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.*  
I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems  
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;  
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.  
*Refrain*

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully  
sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.  
*Refrain*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new  
song,  
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.  
*Refrain*



## I Love to Tell the Story

The words of this hymn were taken from a long poem about the life of Jesus written by Arabella Katherine Hankey while she was recovering from a serious illness. The poem was written in two parts, the first part being *"The Story Wanted"* upon which the popular hymn "Tell Me the Old, Old Story" was based. The inspiration for that particular hymn to be written came when an English Major-General first read them aloud to a convention of the YMCA in Montreal. Dr. W. Howard Doane who was present at the convention was struck by the sight of the large and heavily tanned old soldier who was moved to tears while reading the poem. He set it to music soon afterwards.

From the second part of the poem *"The Story Told,"* W.G. Fischer took several more verses and set them to music in 1867 to create this hymn which also became immediately popular and has been translated into many languages. The simplicity of the lyrics in both hymns reflects the simple way in which the gospel can be presented, in the words of the first of these hymns "as to a little child."

Katherine Hankey wrote several other hymns and collections of what would today be called devotionals, all of which were anthologized into a small book titled *Heart to Heart* which is still in print today.

### A few technical notes and explanations for the modern worshipper

A *Refrain* is an old word for a line or multiple lines of a song or poem that are repeated to tie the verses together. Seen here, each verse refers to sharing the gospel and the great desire of the author to see it shared to the entire world; bringing all into a disciple relationship with Christ even more deeply personal than the relationships we can have with one another.

'Twill is an abbreviation of "It will."

*Golden fancies of our golden dreams* – fancies are things we wish for in our imaginings

