

The Captain—

By Ben Townsend

In the early morning not a sound was heard, in the soldier's quarters no one stirred.
The Captain's steps echoed down the hall; another day of duty called in Jerusalem.
The Captain shouted "Get up men, for payday's today, so let's begin."
A soldier laughed out, "We had fun last night;
 We turned that man into the bloodiest site in Jerusalem.

Then the soldiers all put on their gear; shined their shields and polished their spears;
 All loyalty to their Captain they did show.
He'd trained them all and calmed their fears, fought with them through blood and tears;
 In one accord they'd conquered all their foes.

Chorus: Oh Captain, oh my Captain, we'll follow you always;
 We'll fall in line behind you, obey your every phrase.
We'll march to your cadence and follow in your steps;
 And for you dear Captain, do our best.

As the detail all fell into line; just three more men condemned to die.
"Don't get involved," the Captain said, "Just keep on looking straight ahead to Calvary.
As one who'll die fell to the ground, The Captain heard and turned around.
He sprang to the site so no time would be lost;
 Then he grabbed a man to carry the cross up Calvary.

Then the Captain gazed into the eyes of the one who fell and to his surprise, saw love and compassion
on His face.
He turned to his men holding back a sob, "Don't get involved, just do your job,"
 But the look of Love could not be erased.

Chorus:

As they stood around the cross that day, the Captain's soldiers gambled their pay.
The crash of the cross, the spear in the side, the Captain saw Christ crucified on Calvary.
As darkness came, day turned to night, the Captain struggled with all his might.
"How can He forgive me, he said, when I just brought Him to His death on Calvary.

Then the Captain remembered that look of love, and before he knew it he cried above,
 "Truly this was the Son of God.
He saw this man hanging on a cross and he knew his gain was this man's loss,
 "I'll follow my new Captain and my God.

Chorus: For Christ is now my Captain, I'll follow Him always;
 I'll ever be His soldier, obey His every phrase.
I'll march to His cadence, and follow in His steps,
 And for my new Captain do my best.

As the blood of the cross reached the Captain that day, he through down his spear and walked away,
and one of his men had heard him say, "I'm now a soldier of 'The Way' of Calvary."