

# Why Me Lord

Words & Music by Kris Kristofferson © 1972 all rights reserved

Sing along with Chris @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtQOY-osViQ>

*G* *G7 C*  
Why me Lord what have I ever done,  
*G* *D7*  
To deserve even one of the pleasures I've known.  
*G* *G7 C*  
Tell me Lord what did I ever do,  
*G* *D7* *G* *G7*  
That was worth love'n You, or the kindness you've shown.

## CHORUS

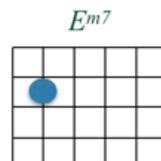
*C* *G*  
Lord help me Jesus. I've wasted it so,  
*D7* *G* *G7*  
Help me Jesus. I know what I am. } Intro + a *D7*  
*C* *G*  
Now that I know, that I've needed you so, }  
*D7* *G*  
Help me Jesus my soul's in your hand.

*G* *G7 C*  
Try me Lord if you think there's a way,  
*G* *D7*  
I can try to repay all I've taken from you.  
*G* *G7 C*  
Maybe Lord I can show someone else,  
*G* *D7* *G* *G7*  
What I go through myself on my way back to you.

## CHORUS

### TAG

*D7* *C Em7 Am G*  
Jesus my soul's in your hand.



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## History

Kristofferson had become the toast of Nashville in the early 1970s, with the massive success of compositions including *For the Good Times*, *Me and Bobby McGee*, *Sunday Morning Coming Down*, *Help Me Make It Through the Night* and many other songs. He had a hit of his own as well, with *Loving Her Was Easier Than Anything I'll Ever Do Again*.

“**Why Me Lord**” was recorded by Kristofferson in 1972, and features backing vocals by soon-to-be wife Rita Coolidge and up-and-coming singer-songwriter Larry Gatlin. It was included on the album, *Jesus Was a Capricorn* and, in 1973, the song became the biggest hit of his career.

According to country music historian Bill Malone, Kristofferson wrote the song during an emotionally low period of his life after having attended a religious service conducted by the Rev.

Jimmie Rogers Snow. Wrote Malone, “*Why Me Lord* may seem greatly out of character for Kristofferson, but it can be interpreted as his own personal religious rephrasing of *Sunday Morning Coming Down*. In this case, he is 'coming down' not from drugs, but from the whole hedonistic euphoria of the (1960s).” Malone also described Kristofferson's gruff vocal styling as "perfect" for the song, since "he sounds like a man who has lived a lot but is now humbling himself before God.”

*Wikipedia*

See Kristofferson telling the story of how this song came to be at <http://keanradio.com/kris-kristofferson-tells-the-story-about-writing-the-song-why-me-lord-while-being-saved/>



Kris telling the story of how “Why Me Lord” came to be written.

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