

BETTER THAN I FOUND IT - DANNY GOKEY (FEAT. KIKI SHEARD)



Music feeds the soul and few people understand its power better than Danny Gokey. His young life has been a rollercoaster ride and music has been his constant companion. It sustained him following the death of his first wife, Sophia, and it propelled him up the charts after the world discovered his talent on American Idol. Music has shaped his life, providing a sense of purpose and direction, even in the most trying times.

Music City definitely felt like a comfortable home for the talented Wisconsin native who grew up listening to a variety of music from Keith Green to Tim McGraw to the Temptations. "My dad was my biggest influence for music," says Gokey, who was born the fifth of six children. "We listened to Dallas Holm, Ray Boltz, dcTalk and Sandy Patti, but we also listened to country music like Brooks & Dunn and Lee Ann Womack as well as funk and soul music like the Temptations, the Four Tops, The Chi-Lites and the Average White Band. My dad had really diverse taste in music and it was a great music education."

Gokey has always loved music, but in the early days, it wasn't the job that paid the bills. "I drove an eighteen wheeler semi-truck, a big rig," he says. "I liked it actually. Was it what I wanted to settle with for the rest of my life? No, because music was where my passion was."

His wife Sophia encouraged his dreams and urged him to audition for American Idol. Just a month before his audition, Sophia died unexpectedly after what should have been a routine heart surgery. The couple had been high school sweethearts and Danny was devastated. Yet in the midst of his sorrow, he honored Sophia's wish and auditioned for American Idol a month after she passed. He advanced through the competition. Viewers were touched by Danny's story and the depth and power of his voice made him a fan favorite.

American Idol not only helped Gokey land a record deal and catapulted his voice into the homes of millions, it also help provide a platform for him to launch Sophia's Heart, an organization founded to carry on the legacy of giving started by his late wife. The organization provides a place to live for homeless families in Nashville, and Gokey is proud of the way Sophia's Heart has expanded to care for a growing number of families each year.

Information from: http://www.newreleasetoday.com/artistdetail.php?artist_id=2886

LYRICS

I don't wanna hear about another, riot
Someone dying at the wrong end of a gun
One more bullet might break my, heart
Oh it sure is dark, can we let in a little sun

I just wanna be a light, be a light, be a light
I just wanna be a light, every day and every night
And leave a better than I found it
A better than I found it
Leave a better than I found it, world!

Another outline on another, sidewalk
It's not just hopscotch
Even rain can't wash that paint away

God won't let you give up on, us
Oh what have we done
Look at all the chaos we create

I just wanna be a light, be a light, be a light
I just wanna be a light, every day and every night

And leave a better than I found it
A better than I found it
Leave a better than I found it, world!

Rapid fire love, Rapid fire love
That's my ammunition and I'm loading up
Rapid fire love, Rapid fire love
That's my ammunition
I wanna leave it
Just a little better, just a little better (x3)

Better than I found it (x3)
I wanna leave
Oh, better, Oh, better
We gotta leave

I believe we can see
We can leave it better that we found it

Better than I found it
Leave a better, world!

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Romans 12:1-8, New International Version (NIV)

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. **4** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5** so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **6** We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7** if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8** if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

1. What parts of the song can you relate to?
2. According to the song, what is the only way to leave this world better than you found it?
3. Read Romans 12:1-2. What are we not supposed to let change us?
4. What is the result of the “renewing of your mind”?
5. Read verses 3-5. What advice are we given there?
6. How would following that advice help us to leave the world better than we found it?
7. What changes would we have to make to follow that advice?
8. Read verses 6-8. Which of those gifts mentioned do you think you could use to improve your world? How could you do it?