

Acoustic Sincerity One (1)

11. Beauty for Ashes

Kenneth E. Robertson

Liner Notes

A prayer for restoration, inspired by promises found in Isaiah 61:3, Psalm 30:11, Esther 9:22, and Joel 2:25

Story

Wow, thought I couldn't recall the circumstances and stories behind this song until I put fingers to the keyboard. This simple, elegant tune developed over the course of six years of tough experiences, dry seasons, and brokenness. We'd been through a massive, horrid church split, another church conflict, a youth group split, church choir gossip mongering, the disintegration of our small-group Bible study, and the passing of Brenda's mom. It seemed we'd lost almost all of our friendships and spiritual support. We had a job, a roof over our heads, and Grace the wonder-puppy. But we were too tired to start over, too disappointed to trust another church, and tempted to hide under the front porch like sick old hound dogs until we either got better or died. Sometimes, old movies on the Turner Classic Movie channel were more restorative than going to church. But we pulled together some other survivors of these church conflicts, and hosted a weekly Bible study in our home for nearly 3 years. Out of that loving small group, the prayer requests, the shared agonies, those Bible studies, and our questions, came the hope and faith to write Beauty for Ashes from the Bible verses listed above. Since writing and praying this song, we have seen repeatedly, over the past several years, that God has been restoring back to us, many of the relationships that the locusts had eaten away. We believe that He hasn't forsaken you, either.

Lyrics

Lord, grant us **Beauty For Ashes**
Gladness for mourning
Restore the years the locusts have eaten away

Lord, grant us **Beauty For Ashes**
Gladness for mourning
Help us restore Your broken heart, where we've walked away

Gratitude: Special Thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to the loves of our lives, Brenda Robertson and Lorei Sloan, for their love, prayer support, and listening ears.

Credits: Recorded, mixed, and mastered at Mouldy Wall Studio, Pendleton, IN.

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Acoustic Sincerity is a home-grown bootstrap operation. For maximum flexibility and artistic independence, we write, edit, select, produce, record, mix, master, and burn CDs and digital download files.

Events: Ken has a burden for churches in small towns and in the country; he will play for church services, homecoming celebrations, revival and camp meetings, youth gatherings, Sunday School class parties, house concerts, Christian school convocations, town fairs and festivals, county fair vesper services, Father's Day or Mother's Day gatherings, benefit events, home school gatherings; he will gladly discuss and consider your event. His tasteful mix of original music, gospel songs, and classic hymns has been enjoyed by people from many Christian denominations, and many of his songs appeal to a broad audience. To schedule an event, please call 765-778-8644 or contact Ken via e-mail at: KennethERobertson@comcast.net