He sat to watch o’er customs paid Hymnal 1982 no. 281 Melody: Breslau L.M.



He sat to watch o’er customs paid,

a man of scorned and hardening trade,

alike the symbol and the tool

of foreign master’s hated rule.

But grace within his heart had stirred,

there needed but the timely word;

it came, true Lord of souls, from thee,

that royal summons, ‘Follow me.’

Enough, when thou wast passing by,

to hear thy voice, to meet thine eye;

he rose, responsive to the call,

and left his task, his gains, his all.

O wise exchange! with these to part,

and lay up treasures in the heart;

let them of Matthew’s wealth partake,

who yield up all for Jesus’ sake.

Words: William Bright (1824-1901)

Music: German traditional melody, harmony based on Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)