

“A Beautiful Day!,” by Dr. Chris Jones

Rushawn Ewears, Jermaine Edwards, and TRINIX composed a short song called *Beautiful Day (Thank You for Sunshine)*. The song became a viral sensation when their rendition circled social media and was seen by tens of millions. I’ve probably listened to the song over 100 times myself.

Why? Because of the story and voice of Rushawn Ewears. Here is part of his story...

Back in 2017, 10-year-old Rushawn Ewears had everything going against him. In a family with little money and struggling with his studies, he was determined to learn how to read so he could write and sing his own songs.

*One lunchtime, a teacher brought him in front of his class at the Top Hill Primary School in St. Elizabeth. Rushawn sang "Beautiful Day," a song originally recorded by Jamaican Gospel singer Jermaine Edwards for his 2014 **Don't Count Me Out** album. One of the teachers recorded his performance.*

Fast forward six years, when Rushawn's rendition of "Beautiful Day" began making rounds on social media. Tens of millions of people worldwide watched the video on TikTok and Instagram, with many millions of views across different remixes on YouTube.

"That day, after school, I didn't have anything to do, and I was walking and singing. One of my teachers brought me in front (of) the whole staff, and I sang the song, and it went viral," [Rushawn told The Gleaner](#).

The song is powerful because Rushawn did what most adults cannot do. He looked his circumstances in the face and said, “I’m thankful”. I encourage you to find the song online and listen to Rushawn sing. Here’s one version: <https://bit.ly/BeautifulDaySong>

The song lyrics are powerful to me because they are a reminder that my thankfulness is and should be separate from my internal and external conditions. In other words, I can be thankful whether things are going well or not.

Being thankful and being in a bad situation do not have to depend upon each other. These two are not “mutually exclusive”. If they were mutually exclusive, then I could not be thankful AND be in a bad situation at the same time. But, since they are NOT mutually exclusive, I can be thankful even when I’m in a situation that I’d prefer not to be in.

So, in this season of thanksgiving, I am thankful. I'm thankful for family I've lost and family I still have. I'm thankful for the challenges and opportunities. I'm thankful for enemies and friends. I'm thankful that today is one more opportunity to create the tomorrow of my dreams. And I'm thankful for being on this exciting journey with me.

I will end with the lyrics that inspire and give me hope.

Lord, I thank you for sunshine.

Thank you for rain.

Thank you for joy.

Thank you for pain.

It's a beautiful day-ay-ay-ay-ay.

It's a beautiful day-ay!

Share your thoughts and comments at chrisjoneslistens@gmail.com.