

MANKIND'S EXCUSE: WE JUST NEVER UNDERSTOOD

James Robert Deal © September 15, 2019

In the style of a Southern Black Spiritual

As an instrumental intro play Verse 1, then Verse 2, and then the Vamp for Verse 1.
Then sing the five verses.

1. Vamp in major: singing optional

1 4 1
Lord, Lord, Lord
5-7 4 1
Lord, Lord, Lord
1 4 1 6m
Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord
4 2min 1
We just never understood

1. Verse 1 Major – Sing now:

1 4 1 4 1 4 1
Some day the Lord will come. That's what the good book has said, and
5-7 4 1
He' be punish' the wicked and rewardin' the good
1 4 1 4 1 4 1
And most of those remaining will be wishing they was dead
4 1 5-7 1
Ashamed that they'd failed to do unto others.
4 1 4 1
They'll be makin' up excuses. They'll be makin' up excuses
4 1
They'll be making up excuses, sayin'
5-7 4 1
"We just never understood."

2. Verse 2 Vamp in minor, singing optional

6m 2min 6m
Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord
3-7 6m
Lord, Lord, Lord
6m 2min 6m
Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord,
3-7 2min 6m
We just never understood.

2. Minor – Sing now

6m 2min 6min 2min 6m 2min 6m
There was a wise man down here. He was teaching his truth
3-7 2min 6m
Matthew wrote his words down. Unfortunately they were later burnt
6m 2min 6min 3-7 6m
Mark who spoke a different language, but doin' the best he could
2min 6m 3-7 6m
Mark who never even met him, wrote again third-hand.

2min 6m 3-7 6m
 And so it ain't no surprise. And so it ain't no surprise.
 2min 6m
 And so it ain't no great big surprise,
 3-7 6m
 He wrote it down half wrong.

3. Vamp in major: Sing, hum, or instrumental only:

1 4 1
 Lord, Lord, Lord
 5-7 4 1
 Lord, Lord, Lord
 1 4 1 6m
 Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord
 4 5-7 1
 We just never understood

3. Major - Sing now:

1 4 1 4 1 4 1
 You sent us other prophets. You sent us messiahs and priestESSES
 5-7 4 1 4 1
 Why, the one who came last year SHE won, A Nobel prize for peace!
 1 4 1 6m 4 5-7 1
 But they all are speakin' esoteric languages that most of us don't understand
 4 1 5-7 4 1
 They are specialists too narrow to teach the overview

4 1 5-7 1
 And so it ain't no surprise, And so it ain't no surprise
 4 1
 And so it ain't no great big surprise
 5-7 4 1
 We still don't understand

4. Vamp in minor: Sing, hum, or instrumental only:

6m 2min 6m
 Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord
 3-7 6m
 Lord, Lord, Lord
 6m 2min 6m
 Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord
 3-7 6m
 We just never understood

4. Minor - Sing now:

6m 2min 6m 2min 6m 2min 6m
But there be some of us that's trying to do your will
3-7 2min 6m
And so we think we have some right to ask one question still
6m 2min 6m 3-7 6m
Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, with all due respect, Lord
2min 6m
Lord if it was all so important
3-7 6m
That we understand
2min 6m
Lord if it was all so important
3-7 6m
Why didn't you make it clear?

2min 6m 3-7 6m
And so it ain't no surprise, And so it ain't no surprise
2min 6m
And so it ain't no great big surprise
3-7 6m
We still don't understand

5. Vamp in major: Sing, hum, or instrumental only:

1 4 1
Lord, Lord, Lord
5-7 4 1
Lord, Lord, Lord
1 4 1 6m
Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord
4 5-7 1
We just never understood

5. Major:

1 4 1 4 1 4 1
But there be some of us that's trying to do your will
5-7 1
And so we would presume to make one fi - nal request
1 4 1 6m 4 5-7 1
Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, with all due respect Lord
4 1 4 1
Lord, if it is all so important, that we understand
4 1
Lord, even at this late date in time
5-7 4 1
Please couldn't you make it clear?

Sing, hum, or instrumental only:

4 1 5-7 1
And so it ain't no surprise, And so it ain't no surprise
4 1
And so it ain't no great big surprise
5-7 4 1
We're still trying to understand
5-7 4 1
We're still trying to understand

Final:

Repeat Verse 5, instrumental only

In the key of C:

1 = C major
2maj = D major
2min = D minor
4min = F minor
5 = G major
5-7 = G-7 major
6m = A minor
7b = Bb

In the key of A:

1 = A major
2maj = B major
2min = B minor
4min = D minor
5 = E major
5-7 = E-7 major
6m = F# minor
7b = G major

In the key of G:

1 = G
2maj = A major
2min = A minor
4min = C
5 = D
5-7 = D-7 major
6m = E minor
7b = F

In the key of D:

1 = D
2maj = E major
2min = E minor
4min = G major
5 = A major
5-7 = E-7 major
6m = B minor
7b = D