**Coward of the County**

vs. 1

C F C

Everyone considered him the coward of the county

G

He never stood one single time to prove the county wrong

C F C

His mama named him Tommy, but folks just called him yellow

G C

Something always told me they were reading tommy wrong

vs. 2 chord prog. simile

He was only ten years old when his daddy died in prison.

I looked after Tommy 'cause he was my brother's son.

I still recall the final words my brother said to Tommy:

"Son, my life is over, but yours is just begun".

Chorus. 1

C F C

Promise me son not to do the things I've done

F C G

Walk away from trouble if you can

C F C

Now it don't mean you're weak if you turn the other cheek

C F G

I hope you're old enough to understand

F G C

You don't have to fight to be a man

vs. 3

C# F# C#

There's someone for everyone and Tommy's love was Becky

G#

In her arms he didn't have to prove he was a man

C# F# C#

One day while he was workin', the Gatlin Boys came callin'

G# C#

They took turns at Becky (spoken in disgust) there were three of them.

vs. 4 chord prog. simile

Tommy opened up the door and saw his Becky cryin'.

The torn dress, the shattered look was more than he could stand.

He reached above the fireplace and took down his daddy's picture.

As his tears fell on his daddy's face, he heard these words again:

Chorus 2

C# F# C#

Promise me son not to do the things I've done

F# C# G#

Walk away from trouble if you can

C# F# C#

Now it don't mean you're weak if you turn the other cheek

F# G#

I hope you're old enough to understand

F# G# C#

You don't have to fight to be a man

vs. 5

D G D

The Gatlin boys just laughed at him when he walked into the bar room

A

One of the got up and hit him halfway cross the floor

D G D

Tommy turned around they said, "Hey, look! Ol' Yellow's leavin'!"

A D

But you coulda heard a pin drop when Tommy stopped and locked the door.

vs. 6 chord prog. simile

Twenty years of crawlin' was bottled up inside him.

He wasn't holdin' nothin' back; he let 'em have it all.

When Tommy left the barroom not a Gatlin boy was standin'.

He said, "This one's for Becky," as he watched the last one fall.

And I heard him say,

chorus 3

D G D

I promised you Dad, not to do the things you've done

G D A

I'll walk away from trouble if I can

D G D

Now Please don't think I'm weak, I couldn't turn the other cheek

A

Papa I sure hope you understand

G A D

sometimes you gotta fight when you're a man

D G D

Ev'ryone considered him the coward of the county.