

# Mel Tillis, Branded Man

I'd like to hold my head up and be proud of who I am  
But they won't let my secret go untold  
I paid the debt I owed 'em but they're still not satisfied  
Now I'm a branded man out in the cold

When they let me out of prison I held my head up high  
Determined I would rise above the shame  
But no matter where I'm living a black mark follows me  
Now I'm branded with a number on my name  
I'd like to hold my head up...

[ guitar ]

If I live to be a hundred I guess I'll never clear my name  
Cause everybody knows I've been in jail  
No matter where I'm living I've got to tell 'em where I been  
Or they'll send me back to prison if I fail  
I'd like to hold my head up...  
Now I'm a branded man out in the cold