

**James Alley Blues**  
**Willie Watson**

Willie Watson - James Alley Blues (Folksinger Vol. 1 - 2014)  
original by Rabbit Brown (1927)  
Capo on 2nd fret

[Chords]

|   | <b>C</b> | <b>C7</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>G</b> |  |
|---|----------|-----------|----------|----------|--|
| e | -----    | -----     | 1-----   | 3-----   |  |
| B | --1----- | 1-----    | 1-----   | 3-----   |  |
| G | --0----- | 3-----    | 2-----   | 0-----   |  |
| D | --2----- | 2-----    | 3-----   | 0-----   |  |
| A | --3----- | 3-----    | 3-----   | 2-----   |  |
| E | -----    | -----     | 1-----   | 3-----   |  |

The song is fingerpicked and when on C alternate the base notes between C and G

**C**

**C**

Times ain t now nothing like they used to be

**F** **C**

Oh times ain t now nothing like they used to be

**G** **C**

And I m tellin you all the truth lord now take it from me

**C** **C7**

I done seen better days but I m puttin up with these

**F** **C**

I done seen better days but I m puttin up with these

**G** **C**

I could have a much better time if you girls weren t so hard to please

**C** **C7**

Cause I was born in the country she thinks I m easy to rule

**F** **C**

Cause I was born in the country she thinks I m easy to rule

**G** **C**

She want to hitch me to her wagon, she want to drive me like a mule

[Harmonica - same as verse chords]

**C F C F C G C**

**C**

How you want me to love you, you keep on treatin me mean

**F** **C**

How do you want me to love you, you keep on treatin me mean

**G** **C**

You re my daily thought and my nightly dream

C

You know I bought the groceries and I paid the rent

F

C

You know I bought the groceries and I paid the rent

G

C

Tried to make me wash her clothes but I got good common sense

[Harmonica]

C

F

C

F

C

G

C

C

C7

Well if you don t want me why don t you tell me so

F

C

Well if you don t want me why don t you tell me so

G

C

Cause I ain t like a man that ain t got nowhere to go

C

Sometimes I think that you re too sweet to die

F

C

Sometimes I think that you re too sweet to die

G

C

And another time I think you oughta be buried alive

[Harmonica]

C

F

C

F

C

G

C

C

Times ain t now nothing like they used to be

F

C

Oh times ain t now nothing like they used to be

G

C

I m tellin you the truth lord now take it from me

(Harmonica)

F

C

(Extra verse sung in some live performances):

I ve been givin you sugar for sugar, let you get salt for salt

I ll give you sugar for sugar, let you get salt for salt

And if you can t get along with me well it s your own fault