“Who Is On The Lord’s Side?”

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday February 12th, 2023

Text: Exodus 32:26

### Intro

1. Does it ever feel like you stand alone in your faith sometimes?
2. Hebrews 13:5: We have the promise of Christ to not ever leave or forsake us!
3. Yet there are times in life that it feels we stand alone.
4. Sometimes the pressures of life make it seem as if we are all alone, and sometimes we will be, but we also need to remember there are others who are going through the same thing!
	1. I Kings 19:18 (NKJV): Elijah felt alone against the idolatry and covenant-breaking Israelites of the Northern Ten Tribes, and God reminded him there were 7,000 people that had not bowed to Baal. *7,000 is few in relation to the nation, but were more than Elijah!*
	2. I Peter 5:8-9: We may sometimes feel we stand alone against the schemes of Satan, but we have brethren in the world who are and have suffered the same. *While our brethren are few in contrast to the world (Matthew 7:14), they are more than me!*
5. In those moments when we feel we stand alone against the sin and temptations of life, we may wonder, “Who will follow Jesus?,” “Who is on the Lord’s side?” *(I Peter 5:9!)*

#### “Who is on the Lord’s Side?” in Situations Like:

* 1. Moses and the Levites vs. Israelites– the Golden Calf incident
		1. *Exodus 32:17-26:* (32:26) “Who is on the Lord’s side?” (ESV)
		2. Moses forced them to choose, to make an unpopular decision – Levites stepped forward and carried out the command of the Lord *(32:26f).*
		3. They stood alone against the 11 other tribes! *(Though few in number they were more than Moses alone!)*
	2. Joshua vs. Israelites – his farewell address
		1. Joshua 24:14-15: He made a stand: “Choose whom you will serve;” “As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.”
		2. Down through their history, this choice was ever before them, and Joshua’s choice proved to be the unpopular one time and again (The book of Judges)!
	3. Elijah vs. 450 prophets of Baal
		1. I Kings 18:21-22: Elijah made the choice of Joshua and stood alone against not only the 450 false prophets of Baal, but against the nation and its king!
		2. I Kings 19:1-3: Jezebel sought his life for his act against her false prophets – she had killed the prophets of the Lord before (I Kings 18:3-4).
		3. Elijah stood against a nation for its idolatry (I Kings 19:9-10: He felt alone!) and God showed them that He was with him (I Kings 18:36-40)
	4. Jeremiah vs. a king and the nation’s false prophets
		1. Jeremiah 15:15-18: Because of the truth of God’s word, Jeremiah was alone against the king and the mockery of false prophets.
		2. His advice to the king from God was unpopular: Do not rely on Egypt for help, surrender to Nebuchadnezzar and live, and do not flee the city, nor go to Egypt.
		3. Jer. 15:19-21: God promised him if he trusted in Him, He would protect him.
		4. He stood alone against the king, false prophets, and his nation!
	5. Paul – Arrested
		1. II Timothy 4:16-17: Paul was deserted by his friends at his arrest and suffering, but acknowledged God was with him, and gave him strength!
		2. Paul stood alone before the authorities declaring the gospel! *(Acts 9:15-16)*
	6. Jesus – Arrested
		1. Mark 14:48-50: At His arrest His followers scattered. (Isaiah 53:3)
		2. Jesus stood alone through His trial when He faced Pilate and the high priests!
	7. There are times when we must stand alone (in God we are never truly alone)!

#### “Who Is On The Lord’s Side” Against Worldliness?

* 1. Saints must choose to follow Jesus and stand for what’s right (on the Lord’s side).
		1. II Cor. 6:14-18: Like the Israelites of old, Christians are called to be separate from the world, to step over the dividing line (so to speak) to the Lord’s side!
	2. Christ warned against bowing to worldliness.
		1. Luke 21:34-36: The cares of this life can distract us from watching and being ready for His coming! *(II Jn. 2:15-17: Not to love the world!)*
		2. Mt. 13:22: Christians can get so distracted by worldly cares they fall away!
	3. Paul warned Timothy about the distractions of the world.
		1. II Timothy 2:3-4: The analogy of a soldier: soldiers concern themselves with the affairs of the one who enlisted him, not the concerns of the world.
	4. Not to surrender convictions for compromise with the world!
		1. Daniel 1:3-8; 6:10-11: Daniel’s courage is required!
			1. As a youth he stood for what was right, even though the majority of his countrymen did not!
			2. As an old man, even knowing that the decree was signed, he continued praying to God, not in secret but just as before – windows open!
		2. Courage is faith at work – II Peter 1:5: “In your faith supply moral excellence.”
	5. To “follow Jesus” “on the Lord’s side” we must often stand against the world!

#### “Who Will Follow Jesus” to God’s Promised Rewards?

* 1. Those who obey God will enter Heaven! (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:9; I Peter 1:3-4)
	2. God has said, “I am with you” to those who choose the Lord’s side (ancient and today)!
		1. Jeremiah 42:11: In obedience to God concerning the king of Babylon!
		2. Haggai 1:13; 2:4: In rebuilding the Temple!
		3. Matthew 28:18-20: In teaching the gospel!
		4. Hebrews 2:18: In times of temptation!
	3. God has said, “Be faithful” despite what the world around us does!
		1. Revelation 2:10: “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
	4. Those who follow Jesus will enter Heaven, where man will never stand alone again!

## Conclusion

1. There is no promise of reward to those who surrender and compromise with the world.
	1. Hebrews 10:36-39: God is displeased with those who shrink back! “We are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.”
2. It was never promised to be easy, but is possible to live righteously! *(Titus 2:11-14)*
3. We are small in number in relation to the world around us, and the world is against us.
	1. Luke 6:22-23: The reward is great in comparison to the scorn of the world!
4. Hebrews 3:12-15: We all need encouragement to stand firm and not fall away.
5. “Who will follow Jesus?” “Who is on the Lord’s side?”
6. Our eternal destiny depends on the answer – So it better be, “Master, here am I!”
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
8. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!