Alone

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday April 24th, 2022

Text: John 16:30-33

# Intro

1. Loneliness can cause depression and pain – most people don’t want to feel all alone!
   1. “Where No One Stands Alone” Stanza 2 *(Hymn by Mosie Lister)*
      1. “Like a king I may live in a palace so tall, With great riches to call my own; But I don't know a thing In this whole wide world That's worse than being alone.”
2. Saints need to know that no matter how “alone” we may feel in this life, God is always with us!
3. For a while Jesus was popular with the people wherever He went – Rarely ever all “alone!”
   1. *Mk. 2:4:* The crowd was so large the paralytic man was lowered down through the roof!
   2. *Jn. 6:2:* Crowds followed Him because of the miracles and healing He performed.
   3. *Jn. 6:5-14:* Jesus fed the 5,000 – people were amazed and called Him, “the Prophet.”
   4. *Jn. 6:15:* The people were about to grab Jesus and make Him their king! He went to be alone.
4. John 16:30-33:
   1. Jesus knew the popularity would end – His hour would come.
   2. He would be left alone by those He called “Friends,” “Apostles,” and “Disciples.”
   3. Though He would be left “alone” He would never leave His people (Matthew 28:20).
5. Jesus suffered being alone so that we never have to!

# Alone In the Garden

1. *Matthew 26:36-46:* He asked His closest friends to watch and pray with Him, and they slept.
   1. Isaiah 53:3: At Gethsemane is the “man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.”
   2. He prayed three times – each time He went to His disciples for human sympathy and encouragement and found them sleeping, leaving Him to grieve alone.
   3. He rebuked Peter: “What! Could you not watch with me one hour?” *(NKJ: Mt. 26:40)*
   4. Luke 22:45: They were “sleeping from sorrow.”
   5. Matthew 26:45-50: The last time He came to His disciples and found them sleeping, He told them the hour of watching and praying had passed – the betrayer was at hand.
2. “Night With Ebon Pinion” Stanza 2 *(Hymn by Love H. Jameson)* 
   1. “Smitten for offenses Which were not His own, He, for our transgressions, Had to weep alone; No friend with words to comfort, Nor hand to help was there, When the Meek and Lowly Humbly bowed in prayer.”
3. Though the world may turn against Him, we must ever be His friend!
   1. Jn. 1:10-11: The world hates Him – He came to His own and His own received Him not.
   2. Jn. 15:18-21: We need to remember that the world will hate those who follow Christ, but we must determine to serve Him no matter what and be willing to suffer for His sake!
   3. Jn. 14:15; 15:14: To be friends of Jesus, we must keep His commandments!
4. Jesus was alone in the Garden, but He will never leave His friends! *(Those who obey His word – Mt. 28:20)*

# Alone At His Trial

1. Matthew 26:55-57: When Jesus was arrested, His friends and disciples all “left Him and fled.”
   1. Mark 14:50-52: “They all left Him and fled” and one even escaped naked!
2. Luke 22:54-62: The denial of the apostle Peter.
   1. He followed close enough to see Jesus but when identified with Him, he denied knowing Him three times.
   2. Mt. 26:73-74: Peter even went so far to “curse and swear” to sell his denial!
   3. Lk. 22:60-62: On the third denial of Christ the rooster crowed and Peter not only remembered the word of Christ, but Jesus looked at him. *He ran out weeping!*
3. John 19:12-16: Jesus before Pilate.
   1. Pilate was more concerned of being a “friend to Caesar” than a friend to the Son of God, so Jesus was condemned to death to cheering crowds chanting, “Crucify! Crucify!”
   2. Luke 23:20-23: Pilate wanted to release Jesus but the crowd prevailed! “Crucify, crucify”
4. “I’ll Be A Friend To Jesus” Stanza 1 *(Hymn by Johnson Oatman, Jr.)* 
   1. “They tried my Lord and Master, With no one to defend; Within the halls of Pilate, He stood without a friend.”
5. The world will forsake and deny Him *(John 1:10; 15:18),* but saints must confess Him!
   1. Mt. 10:32-33: Confess him to be confessed to the Father; Deny Him to be denied to the Father!
   2. II Tim. 2:3: We need to be willing to suffer for the cause of Christ as He had suffered for us! *(I Pet. 2:21-25: An example left to follow)*
6. Jesus stood alone in the judgment halls of Pilate, but He will never desert or forsake His friends! *(Those who keep His commands – Jn. 15:14; Heb. 13:5-6)*

# Alone At the Cross

1. Matthew 27:45-46: “Why have you forsaken Me?” He felt truly alone at that moment.
   1. Though forsaken by man, His Father was with Him!
   2. John 8:29; 16:32; 17:22: “I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.” *(Jn. 16:32)*
2. There were crowds watching & mocking Him *(Mk. 15:29-32),* soldiers *(Jn. 19:23-24),* even His mother and the apostle John *(Jn. 19:25-27),* and two thieves, one of which was mocking Him too *(Lk. 23:39-43).*
   1. John 19:25-27: The list of those standing by Him at the cross:
      * + 1. Mary (Jesus' mother)
          2. Jesus' aunt (Mary's sister)
          3. Mary (wife of Clopas)
          4. Mary Magdalene
          5. Apostle John (“disciple whom He loved;” son of Zebedee)
   2. Mark 15:40-41: List of women watching from a distance who followed Him from Galilee:
      * + 1. Mary Magdalene (apparently doesn't stay distant the whole time)
          2. Mary (the mother of James the younger/less and Joseph)
          3. Mother of James and John (sons of Zebedee)
          4. Salome
          5. Many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem
   3. There were thieves on either side of Him, crowds of soldiers, enemies, friends, and disciples all around Him by the cross and from a distance, and yet, hanging there on the cross, He was alone!
3. “Ten Thousand Angels” Stanza 4 and Chorus *(Hymn by Ray Overholt)*
   1. “To the howling mob He yielded; He did not for mercy cry. The cross of shame He took alone. And when He cried, “It’s finished,” and gave Himself to die; Salvation’s wondrous plan was done.”
   2. “He could have called ten thousand angels To destroy the world and set Him free.
   3. He could have called ten thousand angels, But He died alone, for you and me.” *(Mt. 26:53: 12 Legions of Angels)*
4. The world continues to mock Jesus, but disciples must never be ashamed of Him!
   1. Rom. 1:16: The gospel is God’s power to save – must never be ashamed of its message.
   2. Mk. 8:34-38: Saints must never be ashamed of the One who took the curse of sin away *(Gal. 3:13: The curse of the cross),* but “take up his cross and follow” Christ! *(Lk. 9:23)*
5. Jesus hung on the cross alone for the sins of the world, but was raised and ever lives to make intercession for us so that we never stand alone! *(Those who obey His word –Heb. 7:25)*

# Conclusion

1. Christ suffered all these things alone so that no Christian ever has to – He has made a promise:
   1. Hebrews 13:5-8: “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.”
   2. Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!
   3. There is no need for any Christian to ever be alone.
2. I Peter 5:6-7: God cares for us, and so will never desert us.
3. While man failed Christ, He will not fail His followers!
4. Let us not forsake Christ but live in such a way that we are His friends, and as such we will never have to stand alone!
   1. “Where No One Stands Alone” Chorus *(Hymn by Mosie Lister)*
      1. “Hold my hand all the way, every hour, every day, From here to the great unknown, Take my hand; Let me stand Where no-one stands alone!”
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized, and never be alone again!
6. If a Christian living with sin, repent and He will forgive you. You are not alone!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!