

Series: John

Title: Not Alone, Christ is With Me

Text: John 16: 28-32

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John 16: 28: I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. 29: His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb. 30: Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God. 31: Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe? 32: Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

We see in Christ Jesus true faith, perfect faith.

Proposition: True faith believes God is with me.

John 16: 32: Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

“He that cometh to God must believe that he is” (Heb 11: 6). When you get right down to it—this is what God-given faith believes—*I am not alone, God is with me*. Faith believes God is with me; God is for me; God has, is and shall save me. I am not alone, God is with me.

By contrast with our Savior’s perfect faith, we see in the apostles faith which has much wrong with it. We must not be too critical of them. They were facing a terrible trial that night unlike anything we have faced. But there was pride mixed with their statement that they believed the Lord now.

The Lord had said after he accomplished redemption on the cross and sent the Holy Spirit in greater measure to them, “At that day ye shall know that I am in the Father, and ye in me and I in you.” “In that day ye shall ask me nothing.” He declared in that day that he sent the Spirit they would know and not have questions. In that day, the word of the Lord would not be as proverb to them but they would understand clearly in the heart by the Spirit (Jn 14: 20; 16:23). In answer to this, they said, *‘Now are we sure and believe.’* They said that they knew and understood and believed right then. For one, they had been with the Lord three years; they did believe him but was it only “now” that they believed? And it seems they answered this in contradiction to the Lord’s word that they would know and believe more clearly only after the Lord sent the Holy Spirit. Pride makes us slow to confess our ignorance and unbelief.

Another problem we see is that they did not confess the problem was in themselves. They said that the problem was in the Lord’s preaching. He said plainly to them, *“I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.”*

In addition, they seemed to vaunt in their faith; they seemed to have faith in their assurance. They said, *“Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe.”* (v30) But they only said they believed part of what he declared. The Lord said, *“I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.”* They professed to believe only part of what he said, *“by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.”*

They said that they believed he knew all things. It is likely they said this because the Lord knew they questioned him in their heart. He answered them without them asking. But when he told them they would deny him and be scattered and leave him alone, each one essentially answered, “No, we won’t do that. We will die with you.”

The Lord said, *“Do ye now believe?”* He knew their faith was not as sure as they thought it was. The Lord knows our faith is weak faith. So the Lord graciously declares to them it is not wise to have faith in our faith. The Lord said, *“Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone.”* They believed the Lord. But their confidence was too much in self, too much in their sureness, too much in their faith. They were sure they would not deny him. The apostles

were already being sifted by the devil. The hour was upon them when they would deny knowing the Lord and each go his own way and leave him alone.

Brethren, true faith is not faith in our faith. There is much pride and self-dependence and unbelief mixed with our little faith. Let us ask the Lord to keep us believing on him alone.

Our Lord makes a simple statement that gets to the heart, the essence, of true faith. He said that they would leave him alone, “*yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.*” It is Christ’s perfect faith by which we are saved. Christ’s perfect faithfulness to us—to never leave us alone—is how we are kept in faith.

Do you now believe on the Lord Jesus? Then let this be settled in your heart and mine; let this be the very essence of our faith—I am not alone because Christ is with me. By Christ’s perfect faith for us we are made righteous. And by Christ faithfulness to work in us we are never alone. Christ is with each believer as the Father was with him. It is by our mighty Conqueror that we have been saved, are being saved and shall yet be saved. It is because Christ is with us.

Let’s see Christ’s perfect faith to the Father and to his people.

CHRIST BELIEVED THE FATHER WAS WITH HIM

John 16: 32: Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

The Lord Jesus had perfect faith in the Father. He believed the Father was with him, though all left him alone.

In order to redeem his people and make us the righteousness of God in him, the Lord Jesus had to tread the winepress alone. He had to suffer the cross in perfect faith in the Father unto death. Our Lord did so in perfection.

We see why we must not trust in ourselves but only the Lord. The apostles were strong men. They believed the Lord. In total, they had been with him for over three years. But when the fire became too hot they left him alone. Each fled “to his own”, that is, to his own safety. Each fled because they feared man rather than God.

It is hard to stand with a brother when men are against him. Our sin-nature is to fear man and to seek man’s honor. But these are hindrances to faith as it was for the apostles that night.

We know the Lord had to tread the winepress alone. But the Lord said,

Psalm 69: 8: I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother’s children...20: Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked *for some* to take pity, but *there was* none; and for comforters, but I found none.

When he needed pity and help, his apostles were not there to help. In the Garden of Gethsemane, when he was in soul agony, he asked that they pray with him. But they fell asleep. There were a few near the cross. But the Lord truly suffered on the cross alone with none to help.

And God forsook him on the cross. When he bore the sin of his people, God as the Judge, forsook him. It was not as his Father but as God the Judge that God forsook him in those three hours of darkness. He made him sin for us who knew no sin. It was must that God forsake him in order to satisfy justice. There was a perfect aloneness necessary to satisfy justice.

Why did Christ have to suffer alone? Sin separates from God and from men. Hell will be a place of strict justice where there is no friend, no pity, no help neither from man nor God. It is that living death that Christ suffered alone on the cross. It was a must that he die that living death alone on the cross in order to satisfy justice.

Adam was made in the image of Christ the Perfect Man—"let us make man in our image." Man was not made to be alone. The Lord made a woman of Adam as a helpmeet—picturing God's elect church, Christ's bride. Christ is the perfect Man, the last Adam. He is the perfection of manhood. So for the Perfect Man to be alone to the degree Christ was alone on the cross was the ultimate suffering. It was loneliness we cannot even fathom. But by suffering that living hell Christ satisfied justice by his death. His suffering alone—forsaken of God and his people—was the exact suffering justice demanded for that living, eternal death of being separated from God and man. Christ declares, "I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me" (Is 63:3).

By Christ's perfect faith, even as he suffered being forsaken of God his Judge, he knew he was not alone. God his Father was with him. God the Father was with him in that Christ was fulfilling the will of God his Father for his people. He knew that when he finished the work, God would justify him as he promised. Listen to Christ's perfect faith. And listen to his word to us.

Isaiah 50: 4: The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to *him that is* weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

As a Man, Christ gave his Father the glory for his faith, morning by morning.

Isaiah 50: 5: The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

Christ never wavered in faith as we do.

Isaiah 50: 6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. 7: For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. 8 *He is* near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who *is* mine adversary? let him come near to me. 9: Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who *is* he *that* shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

It was by his perfect faith, that Christ satisfied God's justice so that his people shall never suffer being alone. Christ has made perfect oneness between God and his people by his perfect faith. But sometimes we are alone and in darkness and full of sorrow. Listen to Christ's word to us, brethren. He knows. But hear his word to you believer:

Isaiah 54: 10: Who *is* among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh *in* darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

Truth is, if we are alone, it is of our Lord's gracious hand to make us know that we are not alone, Christ is with us.

CHRIST'S FAITHFUL PROMISE TO THE BELIEVER

Isaiah 41: 9 *Thou* whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, *Thou art* my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. 10: Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

What if you are alone for the same reason as the apostles? They fled and would have left the gospel. But the Lord Jesus came to them after his resurrection and restored them as he promised. it is his faithfulness to fulfill his promise to you and me who believe him by which we are kept. Our Lord made a statement that night when he was with his disciples, saying,

John 14: 23: Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

This statement our Lord made makes some believers afraid because we see our sin and unbelief. Some who are false use it to make God's people afraid. But when the Lord regenerates us and gives us faith to believe on him, God the Father and Christ Jesus his Son take up permanent abode in us. When the apostles left Christ, were they keeping his words? But Christ had given them faith. Though it appeared their faith was gone, still Christ came to them and abode with them.

God our Father's love never alters. He loved us before we loved him. God loves his elect everlastingly. That is why he chose us in Christ. Christ loved the apostles when he laid down his life and put away their sin on the cross and made them the righteousness of God in him, even, as he did for all his people. So though they forsook him and fled, he forgave them and held no resentment against them.

And by restoring them, he showed them and us that our faith is given by him, sustained by him, renewed by him, and grown by him and our faith is in him alone so that "the life we now live in the flesh, we live by the faith of the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us." We are kept by him. It is God our Father and Christ Jesus our Savior coming by the Holy Spirit that gives us faith in the first place. And it is Christ keeping us that makes us keep his words to abide in faith and love. Thus he and the Father forever abide with us.

The apostle Peter learned this. What did he learn? He said "humble yourself under his mighty hand casting all your care on him for he careth for you." (1 Pet 5: 6-7). Child of God, sometimes the Lord in his providence may make it so you are alone. But it so the Lord can make you know that you are not alone, Christ is with you. He declared,

John 14: 18: I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Sometimes mother or father, sister or brother, husband or wife who we love may leave you alone for the gospel's sake. But he will make you know, you are not alone, Christ is with you.

Psalms 27: 10: When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

Proverbs 18:24...there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

There may be times when you feel alone as if Christ has forgotten you. Troubles come and all seems to go contrary to his promise. But you are not alone, child of God, Christ is with you. It is to teach us this that Christ rules the trouble. He said,

Isaiah 49: 15: Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. 16: Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* continually before me.

Joseph ended up alone in prison in a foreign land. "But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison." (Ge 39:21) God sent Moses and Joshua to minister and lead his people and they faced much opposition. But he promised Joshua, "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." (Jos 1:5)

Matthew 28: 18: And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

When Christ begins to draw his child to himself, sometimes false religion casts him out. But Christ knows. When the Pharisee's cast out the blind man, "Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?" (Jn 9: 35).

The apostle Paul experienced being alone but he experienced the Lord's promise. He said,

2 Timothy 4:16: At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge. 17: Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me;

When we come to that final hour and draw our last breath, the Lord will not leave us alone. We shall be as the bride in Solomon's song. She saw Christ come skipping on the mountains. He said, "My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away" (SS 2:10)

That night as the apostles vaunted in their faith,

John 16: 31: Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

Do you now believe Christ? Do you believe on him for all righteousness? Do you believe on him to keep you and present you to the Father faultless? Do you believe you are not alone but Christ is with you? Christ said they would leave him alone.

John 16: 32:...yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

Child of God, Christ knows. He made his people the righteousness of God in him. So if he makes us be alone it is to teach us to believe on him alone. It is to teach us to trust his faithfulness to never leave us. No matter how bad it gets in this world—no matter how men try to strike fear in us—believe on Christ:

Hebrews 13: 5: *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* 6: So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Psalms 46: 7: The LORD of hosts *is* with us; the God of Jacob *is* our refuge. Selah.

Amen!