

The Loneliness Of A Christian

In the spiritual darkness that came on the world soon after human creation, one man walked in the light of God's presence.

Genesis 5:21-22 [NIV] *“When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.”*

Enoch walked with God and while it is not stated in so many words, a fair inference is that he walked a path quite apart from his contemporaries.

Another lonely man was **Noah**, who was the only one who found grace in the sight of God and all evidence points to the loneliness of his life even while surrounded by his people.

Abraham had Sarah and Lot, as well as many servants and herdmen, but as we read his life story we sense he was a man apart.

As far as we know, not one word did God ever speak to Abraham in the company of other people.

Genesis 17:1-3, 17 [NIV] *“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.’ Abram fell face down, and God said to him,” ... “Abraham fell face down; he laughed and said to himself, ‘Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?’”*

The innate dignity of Abram forbade that he assume this face to the ground position in the company of other human beings.

Many of **King David's** psalms were hymns of loneliness, composed in the silence of solitude. [**Psalms 69:8**]

Moses was also a man apart. Even while yet attached to the court of Pharaoh he took long walks, [**Exodus 2:11-12**].

After the resultant break with Egypt Moses dwelt in almost complete seclusion in the desert. [**Exodus 2:15**]

Exodus 3:1-6 [NIV] *“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, ‘I will go over and see this strange sight, why the bush does not burn up.’ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ And Moses said, ‘Here I am.’ ‘Do not come any closer,’ God said. ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’ Then he said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.’ At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.”*

It was while Moses was watching his sheep alone the wonder of the burning bush and his meeting with the Creator God took place.

The One who was more alone than any other human being was our Saviour **Jesus Christ** treading His way to the cross, a deep loneliness unrelieved by the presence of the multitudes.

Jesus Christ faced arrest alone [Mark 14:50], He died alone in darkness [Matthew 27:45, 60] hidden from the sight of human beings.

Jesus Christ arose triumphant and walked out of the tomb, unseen by human beings, though many saw Him afterwards and bore witness to what they saw.

There are some things too sacred for any eye but God's to see.

Some may say, how can a Christian be alone when Jesus has promised to never leave me? [Matthew 28:26]

This cheerful denial of loneliness proves only that the speaker has never walked with God without the support and encouragement afforded them by society.

Always remember you **cannot** carry a cross in company. Even if we are surrounded by a vast crowd, a person must carry their cross alone, we are personally crucified to become a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:3-4, 6 [NIV] *“Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”* ... *“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin,”*

This is the cross that every disciple of Jesus Christ has to bear.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

A total sacrifice of our bodies, mind and human spirit to Jesus Christ our Master and Saviour.

This is the cross we bear alone, no-one else can do this for us.

The pain of loneliness arises from the constitution of our human nature, God made us for each other and the desire for human companionship is completely natural and right.

The loneliness of a Christian results from their walk with God in an ungodly world.

This Christian walk may even take us away from the fellowship of other Christians as well as from that of the un-regenerated world.

Often the God-given instincts cry out for human companionship with others who can understand their longings, aspirations and absorption in the love for Jesus Christ. Yet within their circle of friends there are few, if any, who can share their inner experiences they are forced to walk alone in their Christian life.

Any Christian who has experienced the inner presence of our divine Creator God will not find many, if any, who will understand them.

Such a person has seen what others have only heard of, they are similar to Zacharias [Luke 1:8-21], the people realised he had seen a vision.

A truly spiritual person is indeed something of an oddity.

They live **not** for themselves but to promote the interests of another, Jesus Christ.

They seek to persuade people to also give all to their Lord and asks no portion or share for themselves.

Such a person delights **not** to be honoured by other people but to see Jesus Christ honoured in the eyes of other human beings.

This loneliness is the very thing that throws such a person back upon his Creator God. [**Psalms 27:10**]

Their inability to find human companionship drives them to seek in God what they can find nowhere else.

Such a person learns in inner solitude what they could not have learned in the crowd, that “*Christ is all and in all.*” [**Colossians 3:11**]

Christ is the wisdom that came from God. [**James 3:17**]

Christ is our salvation. [**Acts 4:10-12**]

Christ is our righteousness, imputed by faith in Him. [**Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24**]

1 Corinthians 1:30 [NIV] “*It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God, that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*”

All we ever will need is found in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The lonely Christian is **not** haughty nor “*holier-than-you,*” an austere saint, but is likely to feel that they are the least of all humans.

The lonely Christian does **not** harden themselves against human suffering for their loneliness makes them sympathetic towards the godless world, longing for the time they can share their joy of God’s presence with all other humans.

The weakness of too many Christians is that they feel too much at home in this world, having lost their “*pilgrim*” character and become an essential part of the very moral order against which they have been called by Jesus Christ to protest.

John 17:15-18 [NIV] “*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.*”

In the world but never a part of it.

Acts 17:6 [King James] “*And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;”*

By their example [**Matthew 5:14-16**] these lonely Christians will turn the world the right way up, if not now, they will in the world to come at the return of Jesus Christ.