

Willingness to Walk Alone with God

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"Look unto Abraham ... for I called him alone ..." (Isaiah 51:2).

Abraham was called "*the friend of God*" (James 2:23). This friendship with God called him to a place of being "alone;" for indeed God had "*called him **alone***."

This is to be the expected lot of those who would walk with God. Man often has an affinity for groups; a longing to be "a part of something." We all naturally love and value the fellowship and companionship of others; but more often than not God calls His own to walk on a solitary road with Him. Walking with Him requires a willingness to go alone if necessary. We must be willing to forgo the many voices of comfort and encouragement; of appreciation and respect. He calls us away from the noise of all of this into the quiet place of His love.

God called Abraham [then named Abram] to

"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee" (Genesis 12:1).

Earlier God had placed an "alone" call to Noah.

"... While the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved ..." (I Peter 3:20).

Noah and his family walked alone with God. Job did not even have the luxury of family, not even his wife.

"Then said his wife unto him, 'Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die'" (Job 2:9).

We hear Jesus alone in the garden of Gethsemane, asking of His disciples, specifically Peter,

“What, could ye not watch with Me one hour?” Matthew 26:40

Even Paul, after all his years of loving devotion to others, could say as he stood before his Roman judgment,

“At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me ...” (II Timothy 4:16).

To this he quickly adds,

“Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me ...” (II Timothy 4:17).

This was his testimony. What he lacked from others, while being “alone,” was more than made up for by the Lord. The Lord was his constant friend and companion.

Paul would say in his last letter, while facing death,

“... All they which are in Asia be turned away from me; ... only Luke is with me ...” (II Timothy 1:15; 4:11).

These are only a few examples. What did they all have in common? A willingness to walk alone with God; to forgo earthly fellowship and friendship if need be, to honor and follow Him.

Jesus said of the Pharisees,

“For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:43).

By contrast we read of Paul,

“... Not as pleasing men, but God ...” (I Thessalonians 2:4).

“... Do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10).

“... I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ” (Philippians 3:8).

The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote,

“Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach” Hebrews 13:12-13.

Only a few verses before we read those wonderful words,

“... *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*” (Hebrews 13:5).

The loss of earthly support is offset and outweighed by a deep sense of the love and presence of our Father.

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