

Alone, Yet Not Alone

#0309

Study by W. D. Frazee—May 6, 1977

I'm sure that we are thankful for all the Bible. But I believe that the Lord is not disappointed when we have some favorites among the 66 books. One of my favorites (I'm a rich man, I have more than one favorite) is the *last* book, the book of Revelation. I have been conducting a series of studies on this book, and my own soul has been blessed anew as the river of life has been flowing, and I have been drinking of the stream. Let's turn to Revelation the 14th chapter. This is a picture of the special company that is developed in the last generation. They are that company who demonstrate before the universe the fact that God's law can be kept in erring and weak humanity.

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads..."

God's name, of course, stands for His character. Here are a group of people who reflect the image of Jesus full:

"...And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth..."

It's a song of their experience—an experience that no other company of people have ever enter fully into.

"...These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins..."

That is, they have a pure faith that is uncontaminated by fallen Babylon—either the mother or her daughters. Now, will you read the next sentence with me?

"...These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth..." Revelation 14:1–4.

They follow Jesus all through the universe. As the King of Kings goes on His triumphal journeys: from star to star, from galaxy to galaxy; these in a special sense go with Him. They are His prize exhibit of the results of the plan of His salvation. From the last end of the human race—weakened by 6,000 years of transgression, God develops the blue-ribbon group.

Oh friends, you and I are called to be among them! I pray that we may.

But those who follow Jesus there will first follow Him here. And it is that that I wish to study with you, especially tonight—some things in the experience of following Jesus.

Of course, to follow Jesus, we must be looking at Him. We must discern His footsteps. To walk where He walks, we must be close beside Him. “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.”

Turn now to John the 16th chapter and the 32nd verse. Let the Scripture introduce us into a phase of the Savior’s life which is rather shadowing. Jesus is speaking to His disciple, His little inner circle, just before He goes into the garden of Gethsemane:

“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” John 16:32.

Alone, yet not alone—that is what I want to study with you—this phase of sharing the experience of Jesus. Christ had been with His disciples for over three years. They had been very close to Him. They ate together, worshipped together, studied together, ministered together, and traveled together. They were together. Now Jesus says, “The hour is coming, yes, it is here when you are going to leave me alone. All of you. And yet, I am not alone because the Father is with Me.”

The Father was unseen, of course. Christ knew His presence by faith, for Jesus exercised in His own behalf (in meeting the problems of life here in our humanity) the same power that is available to us. I do not say that He exercised only the power that you and I have; I say that He exercised the power that you and I can have. It was important for Him every day to renew His connection to the Father. And He saw to it that that was done.

Now the disciples were about to desert Him in the crisis hour. All unknown to them, they were cherishing the seed of failure. When the mob came a few hours later—after the struggle that Christ went through in Gethsemane—that crisis hour found the disciples utterly unprepared. Just as Jesus had predicted, they left Him alone. Yet, not alone for the Father was with Him.

Now, what did our text in Revelation say about the remnant? They do what? They follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. Somewhere between now and the coming of our Lord, my dear brother and sister, if you follow the Lamb you will stand for Him all alone, all alone.

That is what the time of trouble includes. That time of trouble which never was since there was a nation that Daniel foretells in Daniel 12:1. That is the time of trouble that Jeremiah saw. Look at Jeremiah, the 30th chapter, and the 7th verse.

Here is where we get the particular name for this particular time of trouble. Do you remember what it is? The Time of Jacob's Trouble, that's right.

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it"
Jeremiah 30:7.

Looking through the prophetic telescope at the anguish and wrestling of the people of God during that time of trouble, just before Christ returns, when they were put in the sweatbox as it were. As the prophet's eyes scanned the past, he could find one special time that helped him to express what this would be like. It is even like the time of Jacob's trouble.

Did Jacob come through? Yes. Let's turn back to Genesis, the 32nd chapter, and the 24th verse. And let's see what happened back there with Jacob. You remember that he had received word that his brother Esau, whom he had wronged years before, was on his way to meet him with an army. His life and all his family were threatened. Jacob knew that he had made some terrible mistakes. He had repented of them and sought forgiveness.

But now, as retribution seemed about to meet him, he longed not only for protection but for the assurance of His forgiveness—His pardon. So after sending a peace offering to Esau and sending various parts of his family and servants over the brook... The 23rd verse says that he sent them over the brook and sent over all that he had. And Jacob was left alone, Jacob was left alone (Genesis 32:24).

There are times, my dear friends, when the anguish that a human heart suffers is such that no other human being can share it. This was true with Jacob that night. None of his children could enter into it. None of those closest to him could know the sorrow and pain of his heart. And so all alone, he was left.

That time of trouble ahead, what's the name of it? The Time of Jacob's trouble. Let me read you a comment. Speaking of this time:

"The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies and in all parts of the earth, and they will be tried singly, not in groups. Everyone must stand the test for himself" *Historical Sketches*, page 158.

That was Jacob's experience in the type. Jacob was left alone, yet he was not alone. "And there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day" (Genesis 32:24).

Who was that man? Jesus Christ, the angel of the covenant. Jacob didn't recognize Him at first. But before the night was over, he knew Him, and he *clung* to Him.

"And He said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me" Genesis 32:26.

Thank God, Jacob was blessed! He was given a new name, what? Israel. It means a prince of God. My point is, Jacob entered into that experience alone.

If you and I are to share with Jesus in His closing demonstration, if we are to follow the Lamb whithersoever He goes, we will pass through Jacob's trouble. And like Jacob, each one of us will be alone with God. We will fight the battle and come off victorious. Praise the name of the Lord!

If this is ahead of us, might it be in the providence of God to have some preliminary training, some preparatory experiences of being alone?

I suppose there was never a time in the history of the world when it is so hard to be alone as it is now. Some people are hardly alone five minutes a day. It is compounded by many of the modern inventions. And there are wonderful advantages and opportunities in being with others, particularly if their influence is uplifting.

But my friends, all who are under the training of God need the quiet hour for communion with their own hearts, with nature, and with God. And if being alone in the time of Jacob's trouble would make us panic, then we would fail. Those who go through Jacob's trouble successfully will be those who had learned the blessing, the privilege, the opportunity that comes in being alone, and in experiencing what Jesus did when He was alone. Yet He was not alone because the Father was with Him.

There is an inner life that each of us must live all alone with himself and God. We may be close to loved ones. The tie between parent and child may be close. The tie between husband and wife is all that could be desired. There may be a friend that sticks closer than a brother. But still, there is an inner road that nobody else ever enters.

Believe me, this is true. And if you think you are peculiar if you are that way, I tell you it is true in every human life. And if you seek satisfaction by seeking to find somebody who fully understands you, you will be disappointed times without number.

Nobody can fully understand you. It is not given to humanity. There is a room in your heart that nobody but Jesus understands what goes on in there. Believe me, I'm telling you the truth.

You can ignore that. You repudiate it. You can deny it. You can acknowledge it and feel sorry that it is so. Or you can adjust to it as a God-arranged reality and say, "Dear Lord, help me to cash in on the advantages of being alone. Help me to seek for it instead of being in a panic. Help me to cherish the opportunity, the privilege of being alone at least a little bit every 24 hours. And help me to look upon it as a great privilege—a precious opportunity. It is a time when my needs are supplied, when my problems are solved, when Jesus becomes real to me."

You know, Paul tells us in Hebrews 9:7 that there was a room in the ancient temple that no one but the high priest went in, and he went in there once a year. And do you remember the word that we are studying tonight that it says about the

high priest when he went in there? Alone. Into the second veil, the Most Holy Place, went the High Priest *alone*.

There are visions that God wants to give your soul, my friends, that comes only in the Most Holy Place of intimate, personal, solitary communion with Him.

This is not to deny or ignore or minimize the great blessing that comes by meeting together as we do here in a meeting, or at the family altar, or in little prayer bands of two or three. All of these are wonderful. They are all important. They are vital. But there is something else that is vital, and that is being all alone with God. There are some things that God may tell you alone with Him. There are weaknesses He will point out, opportunities, privileges that you will never get anywhere else, all alone with God.

Now, as we are studying in our Sabbath School lesson this quarter, one of the great purposes of the life of Jesus here on earth was to demonstrate to you and me how to live the successful, victorious life. And Jesus showed us that one of the most important things in this was being alone with His Father from time to time.

Turn to Matthew the 14th chapter and the 23rd verse. This was at the close of an eventful day that had started with Jesus and His disciples trying to slip away for a little while for Christian recreation. The Bible says that where they were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. So Jesus said, "Come apart and rest awhile."

The multitude saw where they were going, and their time of rest and fellowship together wasn't very long. Jesus spent that day in ministry to the sick, the poor, the discouraged—teaching and healing. And finally, He fed them with the two fishes and five loaves.

Now, after that strenuous day, what did He do? Having met the needs of the people, He dismissed them and sent the disciples across the lake. Then what did He do?

"And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come..."

What's the rest?

[The congregation join him in reading the remainder of the text]

"He was there alone" Matthew 14:23.

The multitude to whom He ministered, gone. His fellow workers were sent away. All alone, He's there on the lakeside—up the mountain.

Why? Ah, my friends, He had been drained. Virtue had gone out of Him all day long. In teaching and healing and counseling, His soul had been drained, and His battery must be recharged. He must find fresh supplies of help from His Father. So He prayed and received it.

Then He went to His disciples, you remember, walking on the waves. He brought them courage and cheer that He had received from God.

This experience was not confined to His public ministry. It was His habit as a young man at Nazareth. Long before He worked any miracles, it was His habit to day by day to commune with His Father.

Notice these beautiful words:

“His hours of happiness were found when alone with nature and with God. Whenever it was His privilege, He turned aside from the scene of His labor, to go into the fields, to meditate in the green valleys, to hold communion with God on the mountainside or amid the trees of the forest. The early morning often found Him in some secluded place, meditating, searching the Scriptures, or in prayer. From these quiet hours He would return to His home to take up His duties again, and to give an example of patient toil”
The Desire of Ages, page 90.

My dear friends, tell me, did you ever hear someone trying to start a car, and as they tried, its start would just *barely* turn over? What’s the matter? Not enough spark. What is the answer? To give it a lighter load? Take that battery out of a big car and put it in a smaller car? What’s the answer? It needs to be recharged, that’s right.

Some people are hunting for an easier job. Some people are trying to flee from test and trial. They envision the situation where their work is easy, their problems are simple, and temptations are small.

Ah, my brother, what you need is to have your battery recharged! Jesus did. The Son of God tabernacled in our humanity had to have His battery recharged, and He did it by being alone with His Father—in nature, and with the Scriptures and prayer. With the voice of singing, He welcomed the morning light.

It’s a simple subscription, but there’s no substitute for it. Oh, I thank God, dear friends, that you and I can follow the Lamb. What do you say?

This experience is not confined to the time when we are on our knees. Notice this statement in *Ministry of Healing*, pages 510 and 511:

“Not all your purposes and good intentions will enable you to withstand evil. You must be men and women of prayer. Your petitions must not be faint, occasional, and fitful, but earnest, persevering, and constant. It is not always necessary to bow upon your knees in order to pray. Cultivate the habit of talking with the Saviour when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor” *Ministry of Healing*, pages 510–511.

Suppose that it falls your lot to hoe a row of corn, and it just so happens that you are the only one in the field that morning or at least that there's nobody near you. Then it is time to feel sorry for yourself, right? Why, no. Then is the time to say, "Dear Lord, this is the opportunity I have been needing to be alone with You. And I can talk to You while I work. The hoe can be busy with the weeds, but while my eyes follow that blade, my heart can be at home with You in the temple above." Cultivate that habit.

Suppose that I am walking to work. Whether it be a few yards or longer, the longer the walk, the greater the opportunity to talk with Jesus while I walk.

And I'll tell you what happens, friends, if we watch for these opportunities, we will see more of them. Cultivate the habit of talking with the Savior when you are alone. Then being alone will not make you panic. Oh, no. It will not make restless. It will not make you feel sorry for yourself.

"Oh, they off and left me alone!" Well, what a providence, if God so arranges.

My dear friend, if your Christian experience is such that it is forever dependent upon somebody else, then you are still nursing. I don't mean in a hospital. I mean, like the baby at the breast or on the bottle—that kind of nursing. It may be beautiful at a certain stage, but it is pitiful at another stage, isn't it? Yes.

Oh, learn what it is to be getting day by day life and power and blessing from Jesus direct. Cultivate the habit of talking with the Savior when you are alone, when you are walking and when you are busy with your daily labor.

Well dear ones, it's a wonderful life with Jesus, and a wonderful walk with Jesus, if we will let it be. What do you say?

Some years ago, Elder Warren Wilson, our dear fellow laborer, and his daughter composed a song that Dona is going to sing to for me now. "I Walk Alone and Yet Not Alone" I think that you'll enjoy its message.

Where breakers rock and windswept rocks befriend
Where ocean baying and seething never end.

I walk alone, along the sea-washed sand
And yet I'm not alone for Jesus holds my hand.

He made the wind, He made the sea
He made the waves that roar on endlessly.

I walk alone, along the sea-washed sand
And yet I'm not alone for Jesus holds my hand.

There is an ocean greater than the sea
And there are breakers much higher than I see.

I walk alone, along life's sifting sand
And yet I'm not alone for Jesus holds my hand.

And though the wind may lash the sea
And mighty winds will never sweep over me

I walk alone, along life's sifting sand
And yet I'm not alone for Jesus holds my hand.

And remember dear ones:

"The relations between God and each soul are as distinct
and full as though there were not another soul upon the
earth" *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

So, when you and Jesus are communing together, you have His full undivided attention. No distractions, no diversion, nothing that keeps you from having all the help you need. Wouldn't you like to kneel here in the quiet of this vesper hour and just commune with Him all by yourself before we go home? Let's do that and then I'll close.

Our precious Lord, how thankful we are tonight for Thy personal interest in each of us. We thank You for all beautiful things You've made—the delicious foods, the lovely flowers, the kind friends and dear loved ones. God forbid that any of these gifts should separate us from the Giver. Rather, may they all beckon us and draw to Thee.

Tonight, we choose to press close to Thy loving heart. We choose to enter in as never before into the privileges, the opportunities of personal fellowship with Thee. Not only that we might be strengthened and helped, but that Thy dear heart may be cheered and blessed.

Oh, we thank Thee for calling us to such a fellowship. We thank Thee that Thy heart of love has so longed for us that Calvary is made possible through the gift of love. We thank Thee for the sacrifice whereby our sins might be canceled, and unity with Thee brought back.

We choose tonight to rest in the assurance of that love, and as we go to share with the others the good news that for each one, there is a personal communion, a personal fellowship, a personal partnership. We thank Thee in Christ's name, amen

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