

she realized that God was watching over her. Ismael and watching over her life. And that God was present.

You remember Moses once said let me not go up. And my people go up except thy presence goes with us. Moses felt a loneliness there.

Elijah on one occasion stated I only am left. He felt alone in a world where there was so many pagan preachers. Heathens, prophets, not true to the word of God. And thus Elijah felt as though he was a lone man. In the midst of a world trying to battle for God. Lonely days. He even said, "I only am left."

Now the nearer our Lord got to the cross, the lonelier he became. Thousands of people followed him. They didn't care a thing for the things that Jesus stood for. Some of them were seeking sides. Some of them wanted to see wonders and miracles performed. Some of them were eager to hear what he had to say. Some of them wanted to see if there was something they could choose him for. There were yet others who felt that he had come at this time to establish a kingdom on earth. And the scriptures say plainly upon this party of his disciples went back and walked no more with him.

Man/ men who are misunderstood in the world find solace and comfort in their own homes and with their family.

Principal Reiny, the distinguished Scottish man who had

*Am looking for improve with years - strong old woman what
we Bank once go said in country -
Lonely Days
Rivling door - New crown st
watch - old man was in our paper
John 16:32
young well dressed man - rocky church
Middle age woman - as one will grow old
"Behold an hour comes, yes, it has come that you shall be
scattered each one to the things he possesses and as you will
leave alone. And yet I am not alone because the father is with
me. These things I have spoken to you in order that as he please
you may be having."
old lady -*

These are (words) of our Lord when he tells how his disciples will scatter and how they will leave him alone.

It is (almost impossible) for us, as mortals, to understand all the sufferings of our Saviour. But I want us this morning, to look about this ingredient that went into the bitter cup. I want us to think about the lonely days. The awful loneliness of Jesus Christ. For the words of his mouth behold the hour cometh when his own, he predicted, would leave him alone.

1. Jesus In the Crowds

Now as we begin the gospel story from the very beginning of his birth we discover that Jesus was the center of attraction. Even at his birth he was not alone. The angels were there, the shepherds came, the wise men visited and there were people who were all about him.

Seldom do we see Jesus except in a crowd. "And he as he went the multitudes thronged him." And we read "a great multitude followed him". They could not get near him because of the

crowd. Always except of course, when he draw aside for prayer. Jesus seems to them to be in the midst of a crowd.

But if you turn swiftly through the gospels we reach the end and it is not like the beginning. What a change. The awful loneliness of Calvary.

Most people have had some experience of loneliness. I do not doubt that there are lonely people in the reach of my voice today.

In a sense Jesus was lonely even when he was in a crowd. Because they pressed him. And they did not really have companionship with him. They did not share communion with him. Now I may share a meal with a whole army of men whom I've never seen or shared before. But now all sensible people would know that one strange individual in a crowd like that would be sort of lonely. Would not really be a part. And when you think of loneliness, you don't think of the wide open and empty spaces but you're with somebody alone. But really you can think in terms of a railroad station. Someone may be lonely in a crowd of people. For example here's a railroad station and someone is meeting every passenger but you. Now you would feel lonely. In a crowd like that. Everybody getting off the train there is somebody to meet them except you. You're left alone.

Which reminds me very much of the story about Theodore

Roosevelt coming back from a hunting trip. And everybody welcomed him. But on that same ship was a preacher and no one paid any attention.

You could think of a essel sailing across the Atlantic and every passenger with somebody to meet him except you.

You may feel lonely at times when you get into a great big world. For example the place I landed in Alaska the communications had gotten crossed up and there was no one to meet the plane. And there in one of the biggest states in the Union without anybody you sorta felt alone on a rainy, windy, cold day.

Could the son of God be other than lonely? With a lonely Loop - Spec Trip - Recorded a Boyer

Human greatness is lonely. For example, when the prince died Tempsel wrote of the lovely splendor in which his death had left the crown. And Queen Victoria herself had told how in one of her last interviews with him, the aged poet said to her, "You are so alone on that terrible height it is terrible."

And if humans can be lonely among humans, how unbearable lonely must have been the inerrate son of God here on this earth. If people of higher positions, without friendship, without contacts feel that loneliness.

We might turn to the Old Testament and read about Hagar and as she went out into the wilderness with that child, all alone. What loneliness of heart and soul she must have felt until God

soul, without any song to sing.

The Psalmist talked about this loneliness but God is the supreme friend of lonely hearts.

II. Three Tremendous Experiences

Now let us turn here and see and discover what these three tremendous experiences that increased the loneliness of our Lord during the last week.

1. The people left him. For the first days of his ministry had been gripped upon some of the people. Many a time he had withstood the rulers because the people were with him. Many times the rulers had feared him because the people would rise up in revolt. Should they harm him.

But now when Pilate brought him out, crowned with thorns, robed in rags, and asked the people what they shall I do with Jesus Christ, Jesus which is called Christ. You know what they said, "Crucify him. Crucify him."

Now the people said it. Nobody knows how big the crowd was or whom it was composed of that night. It might have been an honest cross-section of the population or it might have been the scum of the city. If it was the ordinary people, we do not know. The only thing may have been engineered by the priests. The point is that they turned against him.

But how could it have appeared to Jesus. The people, his people, the ones he had come to save, screamed it out together,

some terrible disappointments to bear in life, was once asked how he could go on in the face of them all. And he answered,

"Oh, you see, I love am so happy at home."

Gladstone had sad moments in the conduct of affairs. There were times in his life. There was bitterness and criticism. And yet he would simply answer and say to you, it was so happy at home.

They all the world takes arms against you its a grand feeling to feel that a few folks at home are standing beside you against all the entire world.

But what about the son of Jesus? He had not that kind of consolation. His family, even down to his dear mother, failed to understand him. His words, his deeds, his public figure. All of these things. His teachings, his family found them pointed out and talked about until I imagine they were plagued by it. Even his sisters and his brothers came home many times, I imagine, and said to their mother, everybody is talking about Jesus again, mother. They say that he insulted the scribes to their faces. They say that down at Jerusalem the Pharisees who are clever men have stated that Jesus is all wrong. And that he has blasphemed God. I suspect that even those close members of his family misunderstood him some days.

One day they persuaded Mary who had his such secrets in her heart that this boy Jesus was deranged. Now you know the story

about the sad stories in the gospel history. They came to a house crowded with people and listened to him. And couldn't get near to him because of the crowd. And they sent a message in and you remember this terrible answer. Looking around on the people nearest to him, and seeing the light of understanding dawn on the face of some of them he stretched his hands out and said, "Behold, my mother and my brethren. For whosoever shall do the will of my father which is in heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother."

He must have been lonelier than ever after that experience. The house of Mary and Martha, apart. Even there his coming caused domestic tensions. There was no place where Jesus was exactly understood.

You take the 14th chapter of John's gospel ends and how the 15th chapter begins. It's really one verse. And they went every man unto his house but Jesus went unto the Mount of Olives. Every man went to his own house. He had some place to go. Every one except the son of God.

When Jacob was down at Bethel that lonely experience, that desolate condition, exiled from home, fleeing from a murderous resentment of his brother, remote from all human beings, encompassed by a barren population, on a bleak summit, 60 miles from Bethel, and the evening coming on and nothing for a couch except a slab of stone. Mingled with the sadness of leaving

home and the sadness and uncertainty of the future, this man was alone. What loneliness days.

But heaven visited him. And God is never far from a one of us. And he had a vision of the ladder. And behold he discovered that God was faithful and would not leave him but would be with him.

We might go to the Old Testament and pick up something of the Psalmist feelings. In 102 Psalms, verse 6-7. "I am like a pelican of the wilderness. I am like an owl of the desert. I watch and am as a sparrow alone upon the housetop."

The loneliness as expressed here by the Psalmist. Think of a bed-ridden sufferer who feels left alone. Think of someone in very weakness and helplessness who is lonely. Think of the hours that are long. Think of the sleepless nights. That he passes through. And think how some individuals feel - they go through the valley of the shadow all alone.

Here is a Psalmist using three figures three birds as a type of loneliness. Here is the pelican, the bird of the swamp. Why he says, here is this old pelican who has reared himself and he'll sit motionless for hours with his bill resting upon his breast. Then he says here is an owl of the night; he's a night bird. Desolate, lonely and forced into loneliness. And then he uses the sparrow. The sparrow that has lost his mate and he he is sitting on a housetop, all alone. Without any music in his

interrupted, my communion is interrupted with God. Why and why has this happened? And I have no peace until I go to God about it.

To enjoy intimate fellowship that Jesus enjoyed with his Father, and we can see a dark cloud roll between him and God. When he hung on the cross. He knew no sin and yet he entered into the experience of sin. The awful sense of separation from his Father. And the cry here is that the consequences fall upon him in our behalf.

I don't know how to illustrate this. But maybe this would help. If we could take this story out of the first world war from medical science. They tell us that there was trouble by the Trench/ever that was affecting the soldiers. They couldn't discover how it was communicated. The opinion had been expressed that it was spread by lice. And they sent for a remarkable man, (Mr. Bacot.) Now he had made a particular study of lice and they told him the need and Mr. Bacot went to work. He took lice, put them into small pill boxes, and he strapped them to his wrist beneath his cuffs. He let the evil things live on him. And the people who knew what he was doing saw him going about his daily routine with these slight bulges under his sleeves.

He began to get results. To save the men in their need, he went to France. He went to Egypt. He went to Poland to expose himself every day to hundreds of bites. And then testing out in

"Crucify him. Crucify him."

I wonder as he stood there in that robe of rage and in that crown of thorns with the blood wet upon him. I wonder if he said to himself, as the people all times do under awful strain in what day is it? Friday? Yes, on Sunday they cheered me and now they curse me. On Sunday it was Hosanna and now it is crucify. On Sunday I was their king and now I'm a criminal. On Sunday all the world was for me and now all the world does is to clamour for my death. The people had forsaken him. Jesus had a lonely day.

2. He was forsaken by his disciples. They left him, it is recorded. They all left him and fled. Once it was written they left all and followed me. Followed him. But now they left him and fled.

Peter though he had been solemnly warned, Thomas though he had said when they first turned their face to Jerusalem, let us also go that we may die with him; Andrew, dependable Andrew; even Andrew left.

I cannot think that the disciples were just plain cowards. They were bewildered.

If we should stop right here and put yourself in that position, they had seen marvels and miracles wrought. They had seen the dead raised. They had watched the lepers made clean and they had seen the blind receive sight. Three years they had watched

all of this and he would not use his power for himself. How could they guess that if sin would do this awful thing, love would bear it.

He had told them, not once, but many times, the son of man must suffer. But they seemed never to take it in. The people did not receive it as such and in the shadow of the cross he watches them flee from it. What awful lonely days. And then that kiss Judas placed upon his cheek. And they moved to the judgment hall where Peter denied him. And we see being fulfilled behold the hour cometh, yes, it has come that ye shall be scattered every man to his own and shall leave me alone.

3. He was forsaken of God. Now listen. This is one of the most awful texts in the Bible. (My, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?) It is then the truth that he has passed through the awful experience of loneliness. What is the explanation of this word, my God, my God? Some people shrink from accepting the word. Plainly they say God would not have forsaken his son. Or it was a mistake on the part of Jesus. He only thought he was forsaken. And there are others who say that he was just getting ready to recite a Psalm and it was cut off at the first verse.

Now I'm aware of all the difficulties though I feel that really I'm not adequate to deal with this verse. But Jesus said this. It is here in the gospels. It would never have been set

down if it had not been said. It is the kind of word that truly John could never had forgotten. If he had been honest with his soul. The cry on the cross. My God, why has thou forsaken me? The people, the disciples, and now God. What a lonely day!

III. Why Was Jesus Lonely?

Why did he suffer this? Why did he go through this experience? I do not think anyone can really find out this mystery. Exactly. But I think it was for redemption. "Him who knew no sin, he made to be sin on our behalf." He who know no sin, God made him to be sin on our behalf.

Well, I know what the questions are. Somebody says how can anybody be made to sin? For somebody else? I just don't know. Another question - how can the innocent suffer for the guilty? I don't know. After all, sin can only be committed by oneself. How can it be placed on someone else? Now this I know. Paul said him who knew no sin, he made to be sin on our behalf. Yes, I know that word before you. If you cannot understand it, you cannot fathom it. We can experience things long before we can explain them. Yes, we enjoy a lot of things as children. And before minds are mature. And we understand things as the years come and go.

But the most awful thing about a sin is the separation from God. I'm sure of that. Even in my poor way, when I sin, I feel a cloud that comes between God and my soul. My fellowship is

his own body when the infection was given. The power of a cure. Finally he became completely infected with typhus and died. Now his story is just another of martyrdoms to science. There was a man who had a lonely task. Lonely days. He was doing this for others.

Now he was clean but he became unclean that he might save others. Now that's a poor parallel but that ought to give some light.

Here is another instance about Mr. Demian who was a Belgian missionary. Who went to serve in Honolulu. He learned of the leper island of Molokai. There were 600 poor unshepherded souls he obtained permission to go and to be their friend. And he went. He was dreadfully lonely on the island. For you must realize he was the only healthy man. In an island made up entirely of lepers. The awful loneliness, of this man, he consisted.

But one morning, something happened. He was pouring some boiling water into a pan when some of it splashed on his bare foot. He did feel the pain. He looked at it for a moment in astonishment. It was boiling water and he did not feel the pain. And when the truth broke upon him, one of the signs of the local leprosy was immunity to pain. He knew in that moment of self-revelation that he was a leper himself. A strange joy surged in his large heart. He rang his bell. He summons his poor flock to church. He leaped into the pulpit, he spread his arms, and

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said, fellow lepers, fellow lepers.

Now all analogy are poor. Both these little pictures are far, far short of the truth. But it remains true that our Lord Jesus knew no sin. But he was made to be sin on our behalf. Thus he could say, fellow sinners.

The awful sorrow of his face, the bowing of his frame, none not from torture nor disgrace. He fears not cross or shame. There is a deeper pang of grief and an agony unknown. In which his love finds no relief, he bears it all alone. Oh, may I in thy sorrow share, and mourn that sins of mine. Should ever wound with grief or care that loving heart of thine.

Handwritten notes:
The Lord Jesus knew no sin.
But he was made to be sin on our behalf.