

January 12, 2014

## Never Alone Psalm 139:1-5

Living alone presents many emotional and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. Today we're exploring what God \_\_\_\_\_ for those who live alone. The Scriptures are God's \_\_\_\_\_ book for everyone, in every stage of life, and in every circumstance. Whatever struggle or heartache you face, God has some \_\_\_\_\_ and help for you. He hasn't forgotten or abandoned you. He knows and \_\_\_\_\_ about you. I did a funeral for an elderly man who had no family at all. Three funeral directors and I carried his casket to the graveside service; two ladies from the nursing home and I sang some hymns. No one else attended. Six people, no family, no friends! This man was utterly alone and buried by strangers.

Loneliness is a growing \_\_\_\_\_ in our society. Loneliness is a widespread problem; and in fact, one in four people \_\_\_\_\_ about feeling lonely frequently. Persistent loneliness can \_\_\_\_\_ our mental and our physical health.

The LORD God said, "It's not \_\_\_\_\_ for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18). Living without a spouse is \_\_\_\_\_, whether you've never married, become a widow, or have been divorced. Loneliness is painful and can \_\_\_\_\_ you into thinking that you are a loser or an outcast, but that's not necessarily so.

### **Our reading today comes from one of the Psalms of David, Psalm 139:1-5.**

Loneliness makes people \_\_\_\_\_ sad and empty, cut off from others and needing companionship. Loneliness typically includes \_\_\_\_\_ because people need to connect with family. We all \_\_\_\_\_ a companion who shares our lives and dreams, who walks through life with us, who experiences our joys and sorrows, and who shares our responsibilities and decisions. Connecting with another is \_\_\_\_\_ than living in the same house. One can feel lonely even when \_\_\_\_\_ by other people.

The Bible tells of several people who lived lonely \_\_\_\_\_. Joseph, the son of Jacob, grew up in a large \_\_\_\_\_; but his half-brothers hated him so much that they sold him into \_\_\_\_\_. At a young age, he lived as a \_\_\_\_\_ in a foreign land, Egypt. His master's wife tried repeatedly to seduce him. When he refused her advances, she falsely accused him and he spent years in \_\_\_\_\_, separated from home and family. I can only imagine how Joseph must have felt. However, Genesis 39:21 says, "But the Lord was with Joseph and extended \_\_\_\_\_ to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer." Whatever Joseph \_\_\_\_\_, the Lord was with him. The Lord protected and provided for him what

he \_\_\_\_\_, even if his family was far away. Joseph was able to endure his hardships and keep his \_\_\_\_\_, because he knew the Lord was with him.

Jesus walked alone \_\_\_\_\_ of his life. He never had a wife and children, but gave Himself completely to His mission of \_\_\_\_\_ people from sin. Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_ all around Him all of His life. He grew up in a \_\_\_\_\_ with several brothers and sisters. He chose and trained twelve disciples who accompanied Him in His \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus often stayed in the home of \_\_\_\_\_ like Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. Multitudes \_\_\_\_\_ Him wherever He went. In spite of all this, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ much of life alone and did what no other person could do. He went to the \_\_\_\_\_ alone. While praying at Gethsemane His disciples fell \_\_\_\_\_. His familiar friend, Judas, betrayed Him; Peter denied Him three times; and the rest were scattered from Him.

Like Joseph Jesus found \_\_\_\_\_ in His relationship with His Father in heaven. Jesus said, "Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I'm not alone, because the Father is with Me." (John 16:32). Jesus found the strength that He \_\_\_\_\_ in the Father, and so can you.

**Read 1 Peter 2:21-23 where Peter revealed how Jesus dealt with lonely suffering.** When Jesus suffered most, He put His life and His \_\_\_\_\_ into the hands of the heavenly Father. There He \_\_\_\_\_ comfort and support.

Jesus began and ended His ordeal on the cross with \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus prayed, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not \_\_\_\_\_ will, but \_\_\_\_\_ be done" (Luke 22:42). While Jesus wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the cross on one hand, He wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the will of the Father on the other. Hebrews 5:7 says, "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was \_\_\_\_\_ because of his reverence."

As they were crucifying the Lord Jesus He was praying, "Father, \_\_\_\_\_ them; for they do not know what they're doing" (Luke 23:34). Instead of \_\_\_\_\_ on their cruelty and the overwhelming pain of large nails going through His hands and feet, Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ about their souls. Jesus prayed for them to be forgiven. We often focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ in life, but Jesus focused on saving people from their \_\_\_\_\_.

In Matthew 27:46, the Lord Jesus "cried out with a loud voice, saying ... 'My God, my God, why have you \_\_\_\_\_ me?'" Did you know that these are words from Psalm 22:1. Psalm 22 is the \_\_\_\_\_ Messianic of all the psalms of David. It begins with a \_\_\_\_\_ of forsakenness; it speaks of the wagging of the head in verse 7; predicts the piercing of His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in verse 16; and speaks of the \_\_\_\_\_ of His garments in verse

18. Verse 27 speaks of all the \_\_\_\_\_ turning to and worshiping the Lord. Could it be the Lord Jesus was reciting this Scripture to Himself and reassuring Himself that His death was not in \_\_\_\_\_?

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ entrusting Himself to the Father. Luke 23:46 says, “Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my \_\_\_\_\_!’ And having said this he breathed his \_\_\_\_\_.” From the beginning to the end of this excruciating ordeal, Jesus found His strength in \_\_\_\_\_. His example will \_\_\_\_\_ us in our times of pain and loneliness. First Peter 4:19 says, “Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall \_\_\_\_\_ their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.” When you’re lonely, entrust your soul to a \_\_\_\_\_ who will not let you down.

The apostle Paul provides another \_\_\_\_\_ for those who live as singles. He said, “To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to \_\_\_\_\_ single as I am” (1 Corinthians 7:8). He realized that not everyone had the gift to live the single life yet he felt there were many \_\_\_\_\_ to living as a single. Paul knew that having family would get in the way of his ministry, and he wanted to be \_\_\_\_\_ of any responsibility except to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ faced great difficulties. They put Paul in prison five times, and he spent about five years of his life in \_\_\_\_\_. If you read through the book of Philippians, you wouldn’t think of Paul as depressed or defeated even though he was in prison when he \_\_\_\_\_ it. Instead, he spoke of his \_\_\_\_\_ in that letter more than twenty times.

Paul learned the secret of being \_\_\_\_\_ in whatever circumstances he found himself. He explains, “I know how to be brought \_\_\_\_\_, and I know how to \_\_\_\_\_. In any and every circumstance, I’ve \_\_\_\_\_ the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things \_\_\_\_\_ him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:12-13). Paul found God’s \_\_\_\_\_ was sufficient for him, even when he was suffering. Having God in his life \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ for all the things that he didn’t have. Paul also understood what it’s like to face \_\_\_\_\_ alone. **Read what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:16-18.**

When you’re lonely, think on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. They will \_\_\_\_\_ you. **Read what the Lord God said in Psalm 68:5-6.** If you have God with you, you have far \_\_\_\_\_ than many of the largest families. The Lord Jesus promised, “and lo, I’m with you \_\_\_\_\_, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). The Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ with His people. I love the Lord’s promise in John 14:23, “If anyone loves me, he will \_\_\_\_\_ my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our \_\_\_\_\_ with him.” The Father and the Lord Jesus make their home with those who love Him enough to \_\_\_\_\_ Him. The Lord God \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua, “I will not fail you or forsake you” (Joshua 1:5). This promise is \_\_\_\_\_ to Christians in Hebrews 13:5. David said, “I’ve been young, and

now I'm old, yet I've not seen the righteous \_\_\_\_\_ or his children begging for bread" (Psalm 37:25). When no one else was there for David, \_\_\_\_\_ was (Psalm 27:10).

**Read what God said to the people of Jerusalem through the prophet in Isaiah 49:15-16.**

God thinks continually of His \_\_\_\_\_. He thinks of their physical \_\_\_\_\_, their spiritual \_\_\_\_\_, and their emotional \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus reminds us that "your Father knows what you \_\_\_\_\_ before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:8).

David kept himself aware of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Our reading today came from Psalm 139:1-5. David describes how intimately God \_\_\_\_\_ him. God knew everything about him, how he \_\_\_\_\_, how he \_\_\_\_\_, even what he \_\_\_\_\_ about. God had known David from his \_\_\_\_\_ in his mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-14). No one knows you and me as intimately as \_\_\_\_\_. He's watched over us every day of our lives, heard every prayer, known every thought, and provided every need. You cannot go anywhere outside the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

How does this help? Because you too can say, "I'm not alone; the \_\_\_\_\_ is with me." You too can say His \_\_\_\_\_ is sufficient for you. You too can say He will \_\_\_\_\_ leave you or forsake you. Give yourself to God! The outspoken atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, who went to court to take \_\_\_\_\_ out of the schools, clearly sensed something was \_\_\_\_\_ from her life. She wrote in her diary in 1977 that she had failed as a \_\_\_\_\_, as a \_\_\_\_\_, and as a politician. In a half dozen places in her diaries O'Hair wrote, "Somebody, somewhere, \_\_\_\_\_ me." We all \_\_\_\_\_ to love and to be loved. There's one place in your heart and soul that no one can fill but God. The loneliest person in the world isn't the one who \_\_\_\_\_ family, but the one who has \_\_\_\_\_ God.

Some folks allow their love for God to \_\_\_\_\_ as years pass. **Read what the Lord Jesus said to the lukewarm church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:20.** The Lord Jesus wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the warm and intimate fellowship He once had with the church in Laodicea, and He wants to have that same intimacy with you. Do you have a close, loving, peaceful relationship with the Lord?

Draw close to God; make Him \_\_\_\_\_ of your life every day! Become a Christian by placing your faith and your \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He will never \_\_\_\_\_ to you and wants to \_\_\_\_\_ you from your sins. Out of love, \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins by forsaking them and following the Lord. Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, and be \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ, united with Him. We're crucified with Christ in baptism that our body of \_\_\_\_\_ might be done away with according to Romans 6:3-7. God \_\_\_\_\_ away our sins in baptism according to Acts 22:16. Oh, become a Christian today!