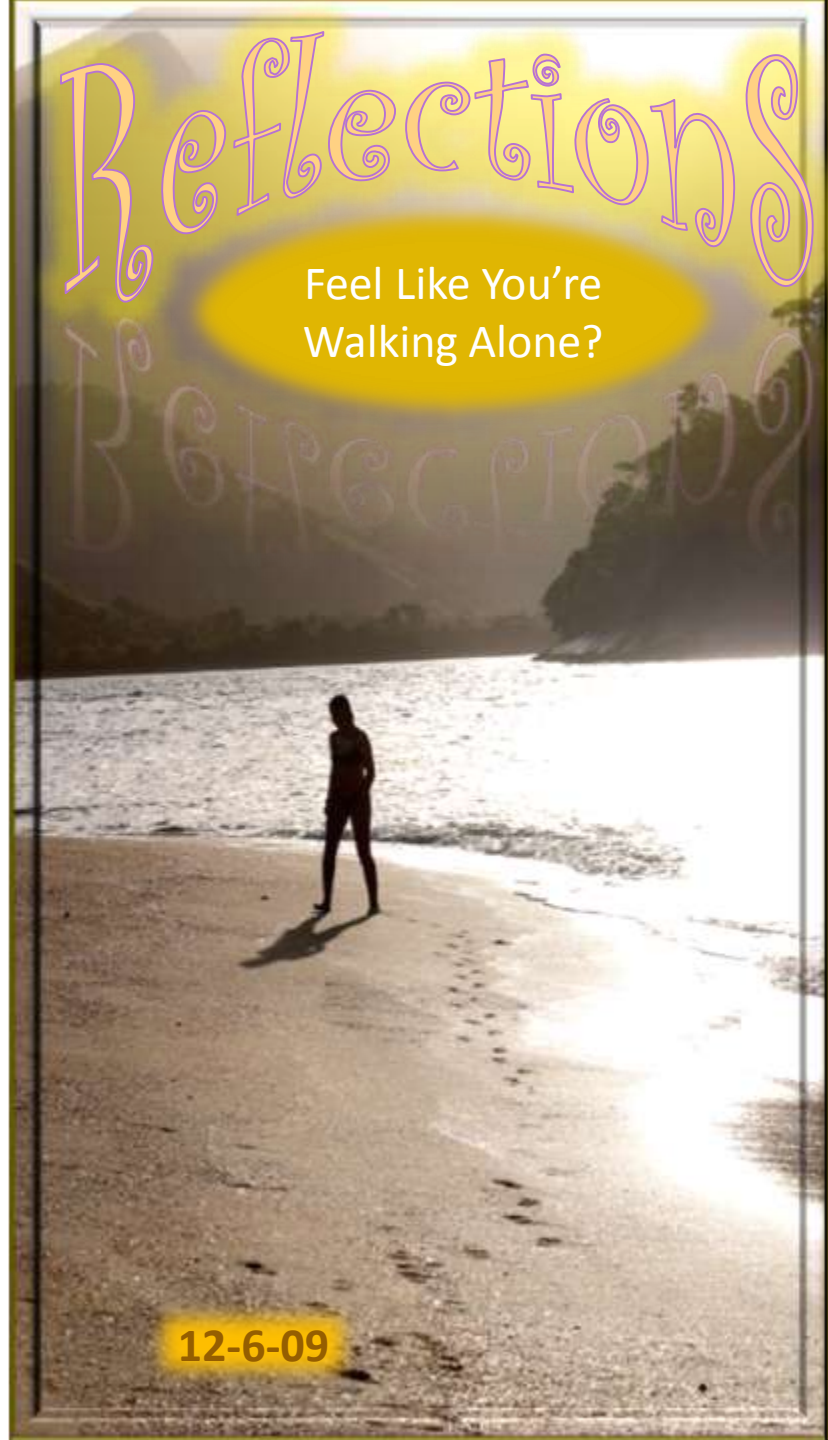


Sermon Notes

Reflections

Feel Like You're
Walking Alone?



12-6-09



Reflections

“I just feel so alone!” How often do we hear such a cry from those who are disenfranchised by their peers or by others with whom they seek identification? Think back to our early years when in Jr. High P.E. we, or our friends, were the last to be chosen when kids were allowed to choose teams for the assigned sport of the day. They, or we, certainly felt alone when we were on the outside looking in, did we not? For kids it’s very difficult to be the one left alone especially in a crowd. The one who is rejected is often regaled with derisive names as a result of their lack of skill, popularity, or by lacking whatever other trait was valued at that time.

When isolation happens to an individual, it is always difficult, if not painful, to be seen as an outcast by the group in which they wish to be included. Such feelings have fueled addictions on the isolated or even retaliation by the victims of such discrimination. Over the years we have often had to console a child who has been disappointed in this way. When we take a stand as a disciple of Jesus, we can, many times, face that sense of aloneness that comes with having to go a different direction than our “friends.”

Tragically, we have lost many to drastic responses to their feelings of loneliness. Suicides, drug addictions, sexually deviant behaviors, and even murders have been the choices of many who have become victims of isolation and loneliness. As Christians, we are also faced with such feelings if we lose our focus on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. We are not exempt from the realities of life. We do, however, have an advocate with the Father and He has promised that He will not leave us alone nor will He fail to remind us of His provision for our sin. *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. (1John 2:1-2 NKJ)*

Not only has He promised to be our Savior, He assures us that He will not leave us alone. He declares that He will abide with us forever. *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever- ¹⁷ “the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:15-18 NKJ)* He further has promised His presence regardless of life’s troubles. *and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. (Mat 28:20 NKJ)* In addition to these great spiritual blessings for the believer, He

has also made us part of the Body of Christ, the Church. If we, in that body, minister to one another as we are called to do, then no one would be entirely alone. We are called to be that body, and to minister to each other according to their need. Notice what is to be the way in which that body is to function. *But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. (1 Corinthians 12:24-27 NKJ)* You see, here in the body of Christ there is to be no one left out. We are to be so unified that when one suffers we all suffer.

We have been given the charge and gifting as His body to truly meet the needs of all who call Jesus Lord. We are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit to serve the needs of each member of the body. Being isolated in such a body of believers is not permitted by choosing to ignore someone because of their class, status, or need. Rather, we are challenged to suffer and rejoice as one. We should be able to see and feel the hurts of our brothers and sisters in Christ and should then reach out to them in their hour of need to uplift and encourage them in the Lord. We are told to *¹⁸ ... not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, (Ephesians 5:18-19 NKJ)*

How wonderful it would be if we would just obey the Lord’s call to the Church to function as His body and minister to one another as we lift up His name to the world. As important as it is to lift up those in the household of faith, it is also an imperative that we go into the world and make disciples. Jesus calls on His disciples to... *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20 NKJ)* See the beauty in God’s plan? We are to go and make disciples and baptize them, and then to teach them to be a faithful obedient follower of Jesus. That makes them part of the body of Christ where we can then minister to their needs, and they can then witness to others themselves. This great plan then replicates itself continuously. As a result of His plan, loneliness could become a rare condition. Jesus has, in effect, made us to be His antidote to walking in loneliness. Remember His command is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as our self. Let’s walk in Him and leave no one lonely. **Pastor Doug**