

When I Must Stand Alone

Introduction

Matthew 10:32-37

A young Christian comes to you, nearly in tears because of a refusal to attend a high school prom, and with quivering lips relates how a very best friend had made fun of her. Her boy friend threatened to “break up” with her if she didn't at least “just go to the dance.” She refused and had to stand almost alone in a congregation where nearly every other teen attended the dance.

I always hurt when I see a youngster who is isolated from friends because of their deep convictions. **But I admire such fine young people so very, very much**

I know that several of you have had to stand alone in fighting your personal battles - defending God and His truth.

1. Man was not meant to be alone

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

2. But there are times when man must be alone.

- A. Alone only because there is no human companion to share their love and conviction for the truth!
- B. Man is never alone who has God.

3. **There are times when human companions pose a danger to having God in one's life**

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

Illustration: Who would knowingly associate with people known to have a deadly infectious disease?

4. **Being friendly with the world is enmity with God**

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 **When must one stand alone?**

When Faced with Situations like That of:

1. **Moses and the Israelites after Sinai**

Exodus 32:17-26

(v26) "Who is on the Lord's Side?"

2. **Joshua and the children of Israel**

Joshua 24:14-15 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

3. Elijah Versus 450 prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18:21-22 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word. Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

4. Jeremiah (His dejection)

Jeremiah 15:17-19 I did not sit in the assembly of the mockers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone because of Your hand, for You have filled me with indignation. Why is my pain perpetual and my wound incurable, which refuses to be healed? Will You surely be to me like an unreliable stream, as waters that fail? Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, then I will bring you back; you shall stand before Me; if you take out the precious from the vile, you shall be as My mouth. Let them return to you, but you must not return to them.

5. Paul

2 Timothy 4:16-17 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

6. Jesus, our Example (in the garden)

Mark 14:48-50 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? "I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not take Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." Then they all forsook Him and fled.

When Worldly Pressures Are Heavy

1. Worldly people never understand people of faith and commitment.

1 Peter 4:3-4 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles-- when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

A. Sometimes Christians, caught up in worldliness, are like this toward other Christians.

2. Jesus warned against bowing to worldliness

Luke 21:34-36 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Matthew 13:22 "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

3. Paul warned Timothy

2 Timothy 2:3-4 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

4. **Never surrender convictions on anything that is unquestionably right.**
 - A. **Courage like young Daniel's is required.**
Daniel 1:3-8
 - B. **Courage is faith at work (2 Peter 1:5)** (NASB: "in your faith supply moral excellence").

When Must I Stand Alone?

When We Understand the Rewards for Standing Alone

1. **"I will never leave (desert, NASB) you, nor forsake you"**
(Hebrews 13:5).
2. **"I am with you!"**
 - A. **When Jeremiah faced the king of Babylon**

Jeremiah 42:11 'Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid; do not be afraid of him,' says the LORD, 'for ***I am with you***, to save you and deliver you from his hand.

B. In rebuilding the Temple

Haggai 1:13 Then Haggai, the LORD'S messenger, spoke the LORD'S message to the people, saying, "***I am with you***, says the LORD."

Haggai 2:4 'Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the LORD, 'and work; for ***I am with you***,' says the LORD of hosts.

3. Be faithful

Revelation 2:10Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

4. **Text of this lesson: (Matthew 10:32)** - "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven."

Conclusion

1. There is no promise of anything worth while to those who surrender and compromise with the world. If so, name it.

"You've got to stand for something or you'll fall for anything"

2. The way is not easy, especially in our time, but the way to righteous living is not impossible.
3. We are small, in relation to the world around us, and the world is against us. This is all the more reason to serve God in harmony with His will and at peace among ourselves.
4. Let's remember the words of the Hebrew writer:

Heb 3:12-13 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

- A. Stand for the truth — even if you must **STAND ALONE!**

Place

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Richie Thetford, November, 1997 (re-worked June 2017) Adapted from a sermon by Dudley Ross Spears, 1997