

TREADING THE WINEPRESS

Isaiah 63:1-6

INTRODUCTION: One day our text for today will become a reality! Isaiah 63:1-3. This is a picture of Jesus Christ at His Second Coming treading the armies of the anti-Christ: Isaiah 63:3-5. Loneliness is an inevitable portion of our human condition. Proverbs 14:10. Today we will look at our Lord Jesus Christ's loneliness in His character, in His temptations, and also in His sufferings for our sins.

I. THE LONELINESS OF CHRIST'S CHARACTER!

In life the higher you climb the lonelier it becomes. The elevated soul separates from the crowd of the world. When men see a man who will not corrupt himself for them or compromise with iniquity it separates that man from the crowd. Moses was on the mount with God alone: Elijah stood alone against the priests of Baal: Jeremiah and John the Baptist and yes even the apostle Paul was deserted and alone in the prison at Rome. Often those who climb high are misunderstood even by their families: Luke 2:49-50; Luke 18:31-34. Yes it was a lonely way that our Lord trod from the time of His baptism and temptation until the cross where He died alone between two thieves.

II. THE LONELINESS OF JESUS TEMPTATIONS!

Temptation is another link of human fellowship, for all are tempted. Even though all are tempted it is still a lonely experience. Every man's temptation is for him an absolutely solitary experience. The tempter takes a man to the wilderness even if he is tempting him in a crowded street or a busy office. This is the place where the man meets the tempter alone where in the moment of temptation he can suffer irreparable loss or incalculable profit and strength. Our Lord Jesus was also tempted: Hebrews 4:15. Our Lord Jesus in the wilderness tempted by the devil is hard to comprehend: Mark 1:12-13. Have you ever thought about the last verse in our Lord's temptation in the wilderness? Luke 4:13. Just because you pass one test of temptation does not mean that Satan is done with you. The good news is that Jesus never gave in to the temptations of the devil: John 14:30; Luke 22:52-53. Just as Satan had tried to tempt our Lord Jesus in the beginning of His ministry with the allurements of the world, so at the end Satan made one last effort to tempt Him in His sufferings. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus would have loved some fellowship from His disciples: Mark 14:35-36; Luke 22:43. On the cross Christ was even forsaken by His heavenly Father: Matthew 27:46; Luke 23:46; Hebrews 4:15-16.

III. JESUS LONELINESS IN HIS SUFFERINGS!

The agony our Lord Jesus suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane and His agony on the cross outdistance any human suffering and woe. All our sufferings are suffered alone and cannot be shared by another. Others may sympathize, encourage, and be alarmed but everyone drinks his cup by himself. Our Lord Jesus knew ahead of time what His sufferings would entail: John 12:27-28; Matthew 26:38; 1 Peter 2:24. Each of us must meet God in judgment alone and find that Jesus is our advocate. 1 Corinthians 11:23-32.