

The Most Solitary Life

Probably one of the saddest and most evident aspects of the life of Christ is that of His profound loneliness. He was without doubt the most solitary Man that ever lived. No other human being could truly understand Him or comfort Him in any of His diverse trials, even from within the small company of His friends and His own family.

But does the Bible not say Jesus complimented His Disciples for standing by Him in all His temptations? Yes, His heart was gladdened by His friend's loyalty, and their ministry of love. Yet at the same time, He found just as much sorrow as solace in their company.

They were slow learners and often forgot what He had just taught them. And even when they did not forget, they failed to put it into practice.

We read of Jesus' reaching out for their support and companionship in the Garden of Gethsemane, but none He received.

And surely even the most insensitive ear can perceive His utter solitude in the prophetic words that foresee His Passion, "I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none." We could go on and on, only time forbids.

What's New About Christ?

Some have attempted to counter this by asserting that all great souls are necessarily lonely in a sinful and self-seeking world, and that a number of them have died a lonely and painful death similar to that of Jesus.

Certainly, that is true, and the Bible makes mention of a few. We read of Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Lot, David and the Prophets. The Apostle Peter uses the word "tormented" to describe Lot's experience.

However, there are some obvious elements that make Jesus' experience different from all others. First, being absolutely without sin, He could detect it in people where no one else could. That being the case, He was more easily grieved, and there was always more to grieve Him.

As someone aptly puts it, "A wound which will cause little pain to a man of a certain temperament and organization may be excruciating to one of finer and more acute sensitiveness."

The second important difference is that of Jesus' compassion and deep sadness for the consequences sin brought to those caught up in it, and the course He was prepared to take to provide a way out.

Who from among the world's heroes, and from among the righteous men of the Bible and Church History, were destined and willing to die for the ungodly? The Apostle Paul gives us the answer: "Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person." And there is one other sad aspect of Jesus' life where no other can identify with Him.

Solitude at Its Worst

Jesus's loneliness reached its peak the moment He became sin for us on the Cross and was "forsaken" even by His Heavenly Father. We get the clearest hint of this in the grievous cry, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me"?

The Father had blocked out Jesus' prayer in His immeasurable and inconceivable sufferings and it was through this agonizing break in the Eternal Love that His descending into hell finds its true meaning!