

Theme: Paul was abandoned by many in his time of need, but he was never alone for the Lord was always with Him, turning his suffering into opportunities for the Gospel, and delivering him even through death itself.

## I. Intro - Eleanor Rigby (All the Lonely People)

- A. Popular song but many think it is named something else
- B. Story of Eleanor Rigby and Father McKenzie
- C. She is a lonely old woman, who picks up rice after a wedding but is alone
- D. He preaches but nobody comes to listen
- E. He preaches her funeral & no one comes - their lives have not mattered at all, they died alone & unmissed
- F. All the lonely people, where do they all come from, All the lonely people, where do they all belong
- G. As Paul neared his death it may have seemed this song could have been about him - but that was not true!
- H. Today - never alone

## II. Timothy, Come Quickly

- A. Paul wants Timothy to hurry to his side  
Do your best to come to me quickly... <sup>13</sup> When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. <sup>21</sup> Do your best to get here before winter. 2 Timothy 4:9, 13, 21
  - 1. Paul is emphatic - do your best to get to me ASAP
  - 2. I need my cloak - it will be cold here
  - 3. Get here before winter - cloak, no travel in winter
  - 4. Paul wants his spiritual son with him in his final days

## B. Paul's lonely circumstances

Do your best to come to me quickly, <sup>10</sup> for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia... <sup>12</sup> I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. 2 Timothy 4:9, 10, 12

- 1. 'for' - this is why Paul needs Timothy quickly
- 2. Many companions were sent out on ministry
  - a. Crescens to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia
  - b. Tychicus to Ephesus - probably brought this letter to Timothy and will replace him there.
  - c. This had created hardship for Paul, but the needs of ministry had required it.
- 3. Demas had deserted/forsaken Paul
  - a. Demas had been with Paul in his first imprisonment (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 1:24)
  - b. But he had abandoned Paul - the same word as 'forsaken' in Psalm 22:1 - several allusions in this section to Psalm 22
  - c. Demas loved this age - opposite of v8 - believers love Jesus' appearing and the age to come!
  - d. Does not necessarily mean Demas was no longer a believer - but it was a bitter abandonment for Paul.
  - e. But notice Paul does not wish evil for Demas - he just notes the facts. We can learn from this!

## C. Companionship and help for Paul

Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. 2 Timothy 4:11

1. Of Paul's closest associates, only Luke is with Paul
  - a. There is reason to think Luke may have helped write the letters - medical terminology
  - b. Luke has been with Paul for many years and is there at the end.

2. Timothy is to bring Mark along with him

- a. Mark had abandoned Paul early in ministry (Acts 15:36-40)
- b. But they had later reconciled and Mark had labored beside Paul (Colossians 4:10; Philemon 1:24)
- c. Mark, Demas, and Luke had even been together serving with Paul when he wrote Philemon!
- d. This gives hope for relationships that have been strained or ruptured - at the end of his life, Paul will have Mark by his side!
- e. It is also interesting to think that in his final days Paul had two of the Gospel writers at his side to recount together all the words and works of Jesus!

D. As he neared the end of his life, Paul had been abandoned by many, but he was not left alone as he would spend his final days with a few of his closest companions.

### III. Paul On Trial

A. The treachery of Alexander the Metalworker

Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. <sup>15</sup> You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. 2 Timothy 4:14-15

1. Alexander - perhaps the one from 1 Timothy 1:20

2. ἐνεδείξατο - to show, explain - perhaps he caused Paul to be arrested or spoke against him at the trial
3. Paul does not try to take revenge - the Lord will deal with him
4. Timothy must be on his guard - don't trust him.

B. Abandoned at the initial trial

At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. 2 Timothy 4:16

1. First defense - Romans had a two-part trial system
2. It is possible Alexander testified against Paul at the first trial, though more likely he betrayed Paul to get him arrested in the first place.
3. At the first part, Paul had no one to testify for him
4. It may be that Luke and others were not there yet, or that they were not allowed to testify
5. Some who could have helped Paul 'deserted' him - same word as used of Demas in v10 (Psa 22 again)
6. Like Jesus, Paul does not want the sin held to the Christian's account - even though they abandoned him in his hour of need!
7. This was all difficult for Paul - it appeared that he was all alone, abandoned by all human companions

## IV. Never Alone - Delivered By the Lord

### A. Never alone - the Lord stood with me

But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. 2 Timothy 4:17

1. The Lord stood at my side - others deserted me, but I was never alone!
2. The Lord gave me strength - even if others abandoned me, the Lord stood by me and helped me.
3. The Lord empowered me to proclaim the Gospel.
4. Paul had been told he would proclaim the Gospel in Rome and before Gentile rulers - and he did!

The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome." Acts 23:11

and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' Acts 27:24

- a. Paul had known for years he would testify in Rome
- b. He knew he would stand in Caesar's court to testify of the Gospel - and he had
- c. Paul was on trial, but his testimony was not in his own behalf, but rather in behalf of Christ - a proclamation of the Gospel!
- d. Psalms 22 also ends with a note of the one who had felt abandoned testifying of God and His faithfulness - just like Paul had done.

- e. Paul's suffering of his two imprisonments had served to further the cause of the Gospel, allowing him to spread the Gospel to many, including rulers, and to write much of the New Testament!

### 5. Delivered from the lion's mouth

- a. This was a proverb of being delivered from a bad situation
- b. It is a reference to Psalm 22:21
- c. Paul had not been put to death at the first trial as God had more for him to do - including writing the Pastoral Epistles!

### B. Rescued and saved into the heavenly kingdom

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 2 Timothy 4:18

1. Rescue me from evil - an allusion to the Lord's Prayer (same words for rescue and evil)
2. This too looks back at Psalm 22, for the Psalmist had felt utterly abandoned, but by the end of the Psalm he is full of praise and declaring that God's name and salvation would be declared to the ends of the earth so that many would turn to the Lord - which is exactly what had happened through Paul!
3. This does NOT mean that Paul would not be convicted and put to death - he was quite clear this was going to happen.
4. It means that Jesus would deliver him even through death itself! Nothing and no one could ever separate Paul from the love of God in Christ - not even death!
5. To Him be the glory for ever and ever - Amen!

## V. Applying the Word

### A. Do I know that I am never alone?

1. We may not be on death row for Jesus - but we have all felt abandoned!
2. There are times that friends - even brothers and sisters in Christ - will abandon us.
3. There are times we will feel we have been abandoned when we have not - but we still feel alone and forsaken.
4. We need to walk with each other through good times and bad - the ministry of presence
5. But Jesus never abandons or forsakes us!
6. If you are a Christian you are NEVER ALONE!
7. Sometimes the darkest hour is when God is working the most and which will produce the most fruit.

### B. The Table of Communion Psalm 23

1. Where is the place you feel most alone or abandoned?
2. Ask the Lord to meet you now and to impress on your soul that He is with you

### Never Alone

2 Timothy 4:9-22

May 15, 2022

Communion

2 Timothy 4:22

Teaching keywords: Eschatology; salvation and deliverance; biblical characters

The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22

Do your best to come to me quickly, <sup>10</sup> for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. <sup>12</sup> I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. <sup>13</sup> When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. <sup>14</sup> Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. <sup>15</sup> You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. <sup>16</sup> At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. <sup>19</sup> Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. <sup>20</sup> Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. <sup>21</sup> Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers. <sup>22</sup> The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. 2 Timothy 4:9-22