

## Be With Me Lord; John 12:25-26

- I. A Constant Companion
  - a. From the very beginning, we needed others
  - b. We are a social species (even introverts need other people)
  - c. Genesis 2:18 (ESV) <sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”
  - d. We are always seeking companionship (even if it is not a romantic relationship)
  - e. We should be seeking the companionship of Jesus
  - f. “Be with me Lord, I cannot live without thee”
- II. Step
  - a. “I dare not try to take one step alone”
  - b. Independence
    - i. “The American Dream” is the belief that anyone, regardless of where they were born or what class they were born into, can attain their own version of success in a society in which upward mobility is possible for everyone. The American dream is believed to be achieved through sacrifice, risk-taking, and hard work, rather than by chance.
    - ii. Be your own boss, make your own hours
    - iii. A “self-made man” – is a classic phrase coined on February 2, 1842, by Henry Clay in the United States Senate, to describe **individuals whose success lay within the individuals themselves, not with outside conditions.**
    - iv. Self-made is used to describe **people who have become successful and rich through their own efforts**, especially if they started life without money, education, or high social status.
    - v. “Pull yourself up by your own bootstraps” – To begin an enterprise or recover from a setback without any outside help; to succeed only by one's own efforts or abilities.
    - vi. This phrase has been widely attributed since at least 1901 to *The Surprising Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, (1781) by Rudolf Erich Raspe, where the eponymous Baron pulls himself out of a swamp by his own pigtail
    - vii. We have been taught from a very young age to be independent and do things by our own strength and intelligence
  - c. Dependence
    - i. God wants us to do exactly the opposite
    - ii. 2 Corinthians 1:8–9 (ESV) <sup>8</sup> For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.
    - iii. This is not the only time God wanted Paul to depend on Him

- iv. 2 Corinthians 12:7–10 (ESV) <sup>7</sup> So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- v. When we trust in our own ability to (versus the ability that God has given us) we become like the Pharisee in Luke 18
- vi. Luke 18:9-14

d. Keep in Step

- i. John 12:26 (ESV) <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

ii. Servant

1. The three words used in verse 26, serves (twice) and servant are all, in the Greek, deacons
2. The meaning of that Greek verb is simply ‘to serve’
3. We call military work service and rightly so
4. We are serving, ultimately, the president of the United States
5. We do what they tell us to do (within the laws of the military) even if that means to go into battle
6. One reason the Marine Corps is so strict and formal is because they order Marines into battle
7. Matthew 20:25-28

iii. Servants keep in step with their masters

1. Galatians 5:22–26 (ESV) <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
2. Living by the Spirit is walking in step with the Spirit
3. Walking in step with the Spirit is living out the fruit of the Spirit
4. The bible admonishes us to walk worthy 64 times (only using the understanding of walking)
5. Colossians 1:9-14

- e. “I cannot bear the loads of life unaided, I need Thy strength to lean myself upon”

III. Depart

- a. "And when shall come the hour of my departure for worlds unknown, O Lord, be with me then"
  - b. Death is certain, we all die
    - i. Hebrews 9:27–28 (ESV) <sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.
    - ii. We are all going to die and none of know when
    - iii. Peter asks the question...
    - iv. 2 Peter 3:11 (ESV) <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,
    - v. There is a definitive connection between what someone believes and what someone does (you do according to your belief)
    - vi. Jesus tells us about an event involving a rich man who live foolishly, and a poor man named Lazarus
    - vii. Luke 16:22 (ESV) <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,
    - viii. Lazarus, who belonged to God, was carried directly to Abraham's bosom (skipping any judgment)
    - ix. In contrast, the rich man, who did not belong to God, was buried, and found himself in Hades
    - x. Peter's point is that those who belong to Christ ought to strive to live in step with the Spirit, lives of holiness and godliness
    - xi. And those who do with be greeted by Jesus (those who don't will be greeted by Satan)
  - c. If we are living lives of holiness and godliness then we can confidently say, "O Lord, be with me then"
- IV. Constant Companion
- a. Is Jesus our constant companion?
  - b. Are we walking in the Spirit, keeping in step with the Spirit?
  - c. Can we confidently sing, "O Lord, be with me then"