April 2012

Dear Friend,

"Why did Jesus have to stand alone?"

A little grade-school boy looked up into his mother’s eyes and asked that question one day many years ago.

She had taken him to see the immense Crucifixion painting at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, California.

As the dramatic music of Richard Strauss played, they had watched, awestruck as the curtain slowly opened, unveiling the 45-foot-tall painting that stretches nearly 200 feet wide — one of the largest canvas paintings in the world.

As the amazing detail in the picture became clear, the boy noticed images of thousands of people streaming through the gates of Jerusalem to witness the execution. The artist placed Christ’s accusers there, standing off to the side. Jesus’ disciples and His mother look on from a distance.

And Jesus stands alone, near the cross, looking up into heaven.
“Why did Jesus have to stand alone?” the boy asked again.

His mother seemed not to know how to answer. They walked on a few paces, then she put a hand on his shoulder, turning him to look up into her eyes again. Struggling to control her emotions, she whispered, “When you grow up, Freddy, I certainly hope you will.”

It was one of those “teachable moments” that parents are granted only a few times in life. And by God’s grace my mother found the right words to say at the right time.

Yes, that little boy was me.

And as I think back on that day now, it brings tears to my eyes.

I had a ready response for my mother. In retrospect, too-ready.

I was like Peter at the Last Supper, pledging that though all the world might turn against Jesus, I, Freddy Kinsey, would never betray my Savior! “I will stand with Jesus, Mom!” I declared.

They were not idle words, but they were the words of a small boy who couldn’t yet know all the challenges and temptations the world would throw at him. Like Peter, I wandered away and at times denied my Lord. But also like Peter, I repented and turned back and pledged anew — each time — to stand with Jesus!

I continue to do that today — every day. And I thank God that He has given me the opportunity to speak to thousands of people over the airwaves, encouraging them to do the same.

Back in those days, when I would walk to school in Glendale, I frequently crossed paths with H.M.S. Richards, the founder of Voice of Prophecy. I admired how he walked with purpose and determination. It was his mission to point people to the cross and invite them to stand with Jesus there.

Many of the poems that Pastor Richards penned focused people’s attention on the events of Calvary. Here’s one titled “At the Cross.”
I came to the cross
   And my sin rolled away,
My burden was gone
   And my night turned to day;
For there I saw Jesus,
   The theme of my prayer,
Jehovah-Tsidkenu,
   My righteousness, there.

That’s what I saw that day at Forest Lawn, as well. Through a little boy’s eyes, I saw a man standing alone, and I resolved to stand with Him. Later I came to understand that when you stand with Jesus, He reaches out to you and extends His robe of righteousness to you so that you can stand in the presence of Jehovah Tsidkenu — righteous!

Voice of Prophecy continues to carry out the mission that Pastor Richards began, and because of people like you who send regular donations to support our work, we are able to broadcast the invitation to stand with Jesus to people all over the world through radio, the Internet, and our Bible School.

To show our appreciation for donations this month, we’ve created a brand-new bookmark with several of Pastor Richards’ poems about Jesus’ sacrifice. We’ll enclose a bookmark with your receipt this month. Remember, donations of any size are always appreciated, and they’re very important to our ministry of pointing people to the cross. Even a dollar or two helps.

As I write this, the words of an old hymn come to mind: “Must Jesus bear the cross alone, and all the world go free?”

And I answer again, **No! Jesus, you don’t have to stand alone!**

I want to stand with Jesus and point people to the cross, don’t you?

I, like Peter, have drifted away at times. But thankfully I always came back. And now I love to tell people who may feel that they’ve wandered away from Jesus
that they can join me in the chorus, singing “Now I’m coming home, nevermore to roam.”

Thank you for your continuing financial support of the Voice of Prophecy! I deeply appreciate it! The world needs to catch a fresh vision of Jesus dying on the cross — alone — so that we will never need to be alone for all eternity!

Yours — standing with Jesus,

Fred Kinsey
Speaker/Director

P.S. When you send a donation of any amount this month, we will send you a beautiful new bookmark with poems by H.M.S. Richards. Use it to keep track of your place in reading through the Bible with us this year, or share it with a friend. It will be a constant reminder of the purpose of all Scripture — to point us to Jesus.

P.P.S. If you would prefer to send your gift online, visit www.vop.com/give. A copy of the “Jesus’ Love Revealed at Calvary” bookmark will be enclosed with all receipts during April.