

MEDITATION ON THREE LITTLE WORDS

There is a three-word phrase that is found twenty-four times in the Bible that seems worthy of our attention. As I search the Scriptures, I notice that these little single-syllable words are never uttered by the wicked, or by the carnal, but only by the most prominent of the Old Testament saints. Job, Jacob, Joshua, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel were the servants of the Lord who the Bible records as having spoken these three little words: **“as for me.”**

When I ponder the characters of the men who spoke these words, I see distinctiveness and courage. Joshua stood out as a non-conformist very early in the recorded history of his life as he and Caleb separated themselves from the majority opinion concerning the feasibility of entering Canaan. And what did the Lord think of their courage? They were the only two adults not to die during the forty years in the wilderness and God made Joshua the leader of the nation as they gained possession of the land. When Joshua called the nation together to hear his final words at the end of his life, that indomitable spirit rose once again as he uttered the memorialized words: but **as for me** and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Jos 24:15.)

What I see also in these giants of the faith is the isolation and loneliness these words are certain to engender. Jeremiah, the prophet with such a sensitive heart, lived a life of lonesomeness because of the unpopular and condemning Word from the Lord that he was required to deliver to his countrymen. And, as if that were not enough, the Lord Himself told Jeremiah that he was forbidden to marry or have sons and daughters. (Jer 16:2). Yet, the weeping prophet never diluted or compromised God’s Word as was able to declare his faithfulness by saying, **As for me**, I have not hastened (withdrawn) from being a pastor to follow thee:” [i.e. from performing my duties in following thee] Jer 17:16.

The final example of distinction and courage, resulting in isolation and loneliness, but coupled with the resolve to follow the way of righteousness, is David, who spoke these words of separation ten different times. Was there anyone who suffered more wrongful reproach than David until the Son of David appeared on the scene? He was reviled and slandered and hated and persecuted his entire life. And while he could have rid himself of the taunts of his enemies by simply ordering their death, what did the psalmist of Israel do? **“As for me**, I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me.” Ps 55:16)

Oh how Satan must despise these three little words. It is his design to attack those on the narrow way and, by the lure of the world, draw them away from God. Also, through his plan to cast doubt on God’s Words, (which began in the garden) even a small compromise by the faithful will be his victory. Oh Lord, against the lure of this world, and ignoring our fear of isolation, may we shout loudly and defiantly in the very face of the enemy” **“AS FOR ME!”**