

WHERE IS GOD WHEN WE NEED HIM?

John 14:19-21

In life's most critical moments even those who walk closely with Jesus experience the temptation that flaunts itself in an indescribable fury: *"Where is God when I need Him most?"* Let me share from a Pastor's heart a response to that question. I will never forget that morning when the tranquility of the day was shattered by a telephone call. Her husband had passed away, suddenly, without the normal notice created by a lingering illness. We left the quiet of our home and drove to the home of a grieving lady. We sat for a few moments in the solemn shadows of her sorrowing heart.

The tears in her eyes magnified the hurt of her heart as she relayed to me the sudden death of one so close to her heart. Concluding her heart-breaking report she asked: *"Where is God when I need Him?"* My mind raced through all I had learned in College and Seminary and had experienced as a Pastor, in an attempt to find a consoling answer. Was there such an answer? I don't know. But answer I must! My heart cried out to God, and I began to speak, knowing that my answer had come from the heart of God. My beloved wife and I held the hands of a broken-hearted lady and I began to speak. I recall it so well, for we returned to our home and I wrote it down, and I now share it with you.

Where is God, you ask? He is in the same place He was when He watched the horror of His own Beloved Son bound with strong ropes, and being scourged mercilessly.

He is in the same place He was when He watched cruel hands drive nails through the tender, compassionate hands...hands that embraced little children, hands that touched blind eyes, hands that broke bread and fish to feed thousands.

He is in the same place He was when the mighty earth shook convulsively as its Creator hung His head and died.

He is in the same place He was when the dark shadows of earth's sorrow hung in silence over a stone grave that held the body of His Beloved Son.

He is in the same place He was when the light of the morning dawn began to creep up the eastern horizon, and the shadows of the night slipped silently away to their resting place.

He is in the same place He was when the stone guarding the grave rolled back and the Triumphant One walked out, never to die again.

He is in the same place as He was when the Mighty Christ proved once for all His own prophecy:

"Because I live, you too shall live!"

Where is God? He is on His throne in eternal glory, approachable, available, and always willing to touch our hearts with His comforting love, His sustaining grace, and His unfailing strength. Reach out! Let Him touch you. You'll see! It's true! He is with you, just as He said...always!

There it is! In that moment the God of the broken heart stepped down, laid His mighty hand on the aching heart of that dear lady, and poured His comforting grace into her life. As we travel the Road to Easter, the words of the Resurrected Jesus pulsate through our hearts and lives in every situation. Hear Him over and over again and again: *"Because I live, you too shall live!"* He is alive and well, ministering grace to all who come to Him by faith, redeeming the penitent from the guilt and power of sin, assuring His followers of the promise He made: *"I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:20)

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