

## WHAT IF YOU WERE THE LAST CHRISTIAN?

Greg Gwin

**A** tired and discouraged Elijah proclaimed to God, *"I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life to take it away"* (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19:10). He was wrong, of course. The Lord explained that He had 7,000 who remained faithful (18).

But what if Elijah had been right? What if he really was the last remaining faithful servant of God in all the earth? Two things seem clear: 1) He could not have used this as an excuse to give up, to surrender, and to stop doing the will of God; and 2) The urgency of his work would have been even greater. The need for his proclamation of God's word would have been even more pressing.

There is a lesson here for us. Have you ever felt like you were alone in your stand for the truth? Has it seemed like no one else was committed to doing what was right? If so, you should take heart in knowing that there are many others who share your convictions and dedication. You are **not** alone. As in Elijah's day, God knows and has an accurate count of all those who are faithfully living for Him.

But, even if you were the last faithful Christian in the entire world, you would still need to work hard to teach and practice the will of God. This would not be an excuse for you to give up or surrender in your service for Him. In fact, your work would be more important than ever.

If all men were to let us down, and we truly stood alone, we would still have this promise from God: *"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* And our reaction to this truth should be to *"boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me"* (Hebrews 13:5-6).

Christian, you are not alone. You have a host of faithful brethren who stand with you. And, you have the Almighty God of heaven who supports you. Stand fast!

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*saw her weeping"* (33). Soon after, *"Jesus wept"* (35), which the neighbors observed, commenting, *"See how He loved him!"* (36), and that was accurate. The Lord was especially fond of Lazarus and his sisters (5). With Lazarus dead and buried and both his sisters telling Jesus, *"Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died"* (21, 32), it was a moment of deep emotion. There is *"a time to weep"*

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## SET YOUR MIND ON GOD'S INTERESTS

Andy Sochor

**J**esus came to earth to offer His life on the cross for us. During His ministry, He told His disciples beforehand that this would happen: *"And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again"* (Mark 8:31).

When Peter heard this, he *"took [Jesus] aside and began to rebuke Him"* (Mark 8:32). It may seem incredible to us that one of the disciples would dare to rebuke Jesus; however, Peter surely did so with the best of intentions – he did not want to see Jesus suffer and die as He said. Yet, Jesus turned around and rebuked Peter because he was *"not setting [his] mind on God's interests, but man's"* (Mark 6:33).

From Peter's perspective at the time, it probably did not make sense why Jesus would have to die. Yet, this was God's plan (cf. Acts 2:23). He needed to accept this even if it was not his will and even if it did not make sense to him at that time. He simply needed to trust that God's will was best and follow Him accordingly. The same is true for us today. We need to have faith in God, trust His word, and follow His teachings.

So set your mind on God's interests. Even if we do not understand why something must happen a certain way, we need to trust that God's way is best. Let us walk by faith and focus on following the will of God.

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and *"a time to mourn"* (Ecclesiastes 3:4). Falling at Jesus' feet was an expression of Mary's bereavement, a normal and healthy response to loss, even when the bereaved trust in the resurrection.

**Mary stooped to His feet to anoint Him.** *"Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil"* (John 12:3). That the aroma wafted throughout the whole house is a reminder that when Jesus is honored, everyone is blessed. The perfume she applied to Him was valued at 300 denarii (5). A denarius was a day's wage for 12 hours of manual labor (Matthew 20:2, 9-12), so 300 denarii was a year's earnings. Pouring this out on Christ's feet and head (Matthew 26:7) was an act of deeply devoted reverence. The Lord called it preparation for His burial (John 12:7) and insisted Mary live long in our memory for doing so (Matthew 16:13).

## ***"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"***

***ACTS 16:30***

### **LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

### **BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

### **CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

### **REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

### **BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

### **REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

## ***"THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER"***

***HEBREWS 10:24-25***

### **SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

### **WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.

## ***"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN ANY TRESPASS... RESTORE SUCH A ONE"***

***GALATIANS 6:1***

### **CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

### **REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

### **PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

### **REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

## ***"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN"***

***PROVERBS 25:11***

"The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

## ***GIVE ME THE BIBLE***

KDNF 840AM

Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

# ***"WHOLE COUNSEL"***

***ACTS 20:27***

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## **ALWAYS AT HIS FEET**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Mary of Bethany makes only three appearances in the pages of Holy Writ and in all three she spends her time at the feet of the Lord.

Mary sat at His feet to learn from Him. *"He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word"* (Luke 10:38-39). Sitting at another's feet was a common expression in Scripture for describing the student/teacher dynamic. Moses employed the phrase, saying, *"Yes, He loves the people; all His saints are in Your hand; they sit down at Your feet; everyone receives Your words"* (Deuteronomy 33:3). To receive Jehovah's words, the Israelites were, figuratively, seated at His feet. In the first century, Gamaliel was *"a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people"* (Acts 5:34), and Paul described his own education as having been *"brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law"* (22:3). Thus, while Jesus was under her roof, Mary took full advantage of the education He could provide her.

Mary fell down at His feet after her brother died. *"When Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died'"* (John 11:32). Although a touch of reverence cannot be discounted, Mary throwing herself down like this was more a matter of grief for *"Jesus"* – Continued on page 2 –

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