



NOT *Alone*

by David Fleming
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To our brothers and sisters who long to be parents:

You are not alone. Not only are others like you—wanting children to serve and love, to cry and laugh with— but also Mary’s Son. Jesus bears this burden with you.

When Saul rode to Damascus to drag off Christians, Jesus knocked him off his high horse. “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” (ACTS 9:4). Who was Saul persecuting? Christians—men, women, and children. But listen carefully to your Savior: “Why are you persecuting me?” Jesus was persecuted because His saints were mistreated. What burdened His people was also borne by our Lord.

Jesus knows your suffering too. He bears it with you. You are not alone. You are not abandoned or forsaken. Jesus remains your Good Shepherd. Does He know your heartbreak and tears? Absolutely. Is He angry with you for some past horrid sin or deep shame? Absolutely not. He buried away every sin. He proclaimed, “It is finished” (JOHN 19:30). “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (ROM. 8:1). Does He care? Of course He cares. Nothing is “able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (ROM. 8:39). Your heavenly Father cares so much for you that He did that most unthinkable, bold, unrelenting act of love ever: He gave up His only-begotten Son for you. Many care for you deeply, but not one of us would hand our son or daughter over to death for you. But your Father did, and your Savior consented. His love for you is real and stronger than death.

So, why no child? Or why no child yet? We don’t know the answer, but it’s not wrong to cry out to your Lord repeatedly: “Why? How

long?” The psalms of lament are especially helpful when the Lord does not give us what we long for. “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day?” (PS. 13:1–2).

Luther directs us in our heartbreak to cry Psalm 6. Here the Holy Spirit gives poetic voice to our pain in prayer: “My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O Lord—how long? . . . I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping” (PS. 6:3, 6). Such prayer puts us in our place—a most blessed place—as dear children speaking to their dear Father who only seems to be ignoring, but actually “has heard my plea” (6:9).

Let Christ’s family help. Ask your pastor for a time to sit down and listen. We want to hear you, pray with you and bless you. We have no quick fixes, but bearing burdens is our calling. Please know your church prays for you. “Hear the cries of those who long for children!” Ask your pastor for others you can open up to. There are fellow members of Christ’s body who have similar sadness. Regularly receive a seat at Jesus’ family table and know that as He touches you with His body and blood, He gathers you as a dear one. He strengthens you and lends you His patience and peace. You are not alone. ☞

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