

07.06.2008 (Sun)

He Has Not Left Me Alone (Jn 8:29)

We find two verses that highlight God's sending: First is from Jn 17:3. "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." The second is from Jn 8:29 "The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."

The meaning of 'sent' is same but with one exception; the two verses use two different words for 'sent.' In Jn 8:29 it uses '*pempo*' whereas Jn 17:3 uses '*apostello*.' *Pempo* is a simple sending; *Apostello* sending is a sending *with commission and authority*.

Knowing God is knowing Jesus Christ whom He has sent. This 'knowing' is eternal life. Jesus was sent to give the life of God to all who know Him. This 'sent' is *apostello*, the sending with the commission and authority from the Father.

*Pempo* sent is the *simple* sending of carrying out the task. The Father did not leave Jesus alone because He *always* pleased the Father as He *simply* carried out the God-given commission of seeking and saving the lost sinners to give them life everlasting.

What kind of sending was this? There was no beauty nor majesty in it, for sure. Nor was there any attraction in it. This sending was to be familiarized with sorrows and suffering. It was a sending on its way to death by pounding of nails into the hands and feet and by piercing of the spear together with rejection of the people in utter ignorance and contempt (Isa 53:1-7).

*But, He didn't mind.* He welcomed them with 'joy' instead (Heb 12:2). Why? Because the salvation of the sinners and eternal life for the righteous were the heavenly Father's will. No red carpet ever rolled out for Jesus. He was met with disdain and treated with despicable contempt. Yet, he didn't stop doing what pleased the Father.

Many people blamed and criticized him (Mt 13:53-57). They misunderstood him and welcomed him not (Jn 1:10-11). Nonetheless, the Lord continued to be with the sinners *to save them* (Mt 11:19). He was with the prostitutes *to save them* (Mt 21:31-32).

He was with the lowly things of this world and the despised things and the things that are not *to save them*, and to nullify the things that are so that no one may boast before him (1 Cor 1:26:29). Lift up your eyes and discover the sacrifice of our Lord!

Listen to Isaiah 53:4-5. "Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Jesus cared for us so. He didn't mind who or what we were. He stayed with us till the end. He loved us so. He was with us when we were still powerless (Rom 5:6), when we were ungodly (Rom 5:6), where we were sinners (Rom 5:8) and when we were God's enemies (Rom 5:10)!

What made him endure us and accomplish the mission in His sending? It was the cross. Because of His victory at and thru the cross we have the life of God, the life full of eternal joy and eternal rest.

Only the cross matters! "The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." What was the driving force for Jesus to 'always' do that pleased the Father? The cross!

You know how John 3:16 begins. "For God so loved the world." The adverb *so* describes the great extent of the cross. God loved us *so* thru the cross. Jesus did everything *so* by the cross, which is why the Father did not leave Jesus alone, His One and Only.

If there are thoughts and ideas for believers, it is the cross of Jesus Christ! The cross surpasses the shape of horizontal and vertical bars. The cross is the power and the love to bring life to others. True peace lasts when others live. Have you discovered the truth? We are all in the cross!

Caring for others and raising up others, in the purest and deepest understanding, are the expression of cross. The cross is the ultimate peak of love. You can't possibly love more than the cross. The cross is the purest form of love itself. For this reason, there is no other wisdom nor ability to do the will of the Father aside from the cross.

Faith is the faith of the cross. Obedience and deed of the cross. The cross isn't selfish. The cross calls for unity. It unites. It brings harmony. It is always one in the cross. So we have the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Spirit in one!

In Genesis 2:24 we find the unity of a man and a woman. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." Who is this 'father and mother?' It is *the* ground from which the man was taken.

Adam's dusty ground, the earth in formless, empty and darkness, is the land of Canaan, also known as the land of Amorites (Gen 3:23, Eze 16:3). Amorites has meaning of 'western' as in the place sun sets. It is the base of idols and darkness. Amorites today can be us when we are full of ego and so strong in our thought (Am 2:9).

We must leave our darkness in order to do things that please the Father. Adam began from the insignificant dust, but became the living being thru the receiving of the breath of life, the word of God. Woman was made from the sacrifice of the living being (Gen 2:22).

*Life was possible thru this union of sacrifice. Life begins from and by the cross. The Father who sent Jesus in the name of true sacrifice called the cross is with us. The Father is with us when we share the gospel and live by it!*