

Beloved Disciple

Devotional

V.

THE RESPONSE OF STANDING ALONGSIDE



STANDING ALONGSIDE *the Paraclete*

In the Court of Law, Sanhedrin, in antiquity, there wasn't a prosecuting attorney representing the state, a defense attorney, like a public defender, judge and jury like today. There was a court of elders and there were witnesses for and witnesses against. The paraclete (παρακαλέω) was the witness for the defense. Literally one called to stand alongside of another. Jesus says he will send a witness of the Spirit to stand alongside of us. In the final scene of Jesus' cross the Beloved Disciple is the one who "stands alongside" (παρεστῶτα) of Jesus as he dies on the cross. He incarnates the role of the Paraclete that Jesus had just spoke about in his Farewell Discourse (13-17). Listed below are the seven functions of the Paraclete.

1. Advocate or Helper:

- John 14:16: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever."

2. Teacher:

- John 14:26: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."



STANDING ALONGSIDE *the Paraclete, pt 2*

3. Spirit of Truth:

- John 14:17: "Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

4. Witness:

- John 15:26: "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me."

5. Conviction of the World:

- John 16:8: "And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."

6. Indwelling Presence:

- John 14:17: "You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."
- John 14:23: "Jesus answered him, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.'"

7. Future Revelation:

- John 16:13: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."



J E S U S ' P R A Y E R

the prayer of resting in Christ



John 16:23-26

*To pray is to descend with the mind into the heart,
and there to stand before the face of the Lord, ever-
present, all seeing, within you.*

Theophan the Recluse

Read the above verse.

Set a 15 Minute Timer.

Be Still.

Pray the following words.

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a
sinner.*

**For the next 15 minutes baptize every thought,
feeling, and interruption in the name of Jesus by
saying it aloud, "Jesus."**

**Let yourself become aware of his Presence and
slowly breath his name. Inhale "Je" and exhale
"sus" Every time you say his name sense after
his presence.**

The longer this prayer goes the deeper one's
reflections become, until the name of God seems
burrowed within the soul. Professor and Psychologist
Olga Louchakova-Schwartz has documented cases of
mental healings, addiction deliverances, life
transformation, and miracles through the Jesus
Prayer (Hesychasm).

Articles, books, and even seminars on the Jesus
Prayer cannot substitute for just jumping in. The best
place of learning is just doing it.

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**In that day
you will no
longer ask me
anything. Very
truly I tell you,
my Father will
give you
whatever you
ask in my
name.**

John 16:23



FAREWELL DISCOURSE

The Farewell Discourses in the Gospel of John contain several recurring motifs or themes. While there are various interpretations and perspectives on these motifs, here are seven commonly identified motifs in the Farewell Discourses:

1. Love: Love is a prominent motif in the Farewell Discourses. Jesus emphasizes the importance of love, particularly love for one another, as a defining characteristic of his disciples (John 13:34-35).
2. Union with God: The concept of union or oneness with God is a significant motif in the Farewell Discourses. Jesus speaks of his intimate relationship with the Father and desires that his disciples experience a similar unity with God (John 14:20, John 17:21).
3. The Holy Spirit: The role of the Holy Spirit is another recurring motif. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit as a Helper, Comforter, and Guide for his disciples after his departure (John 14:16-17, John 16:7-15).
4. Joy: Joy is emphasized in the Farewell Discourses as a result of the disciples' relationship with Jesus and their union with God. Jesus desires that his joy may be in them and that their joy may be full (John 15:11, John 17:13).



FAREWELL DISCOURSE

5. Abiding in Christ: The motif of abiding in Christ signifies the close and ongoing relationship between Jesus and his disciples. Jesus uses the imagery of the vine and branches to illustrate the importance of remaining connected to him (John 15:1-8).

6. Prayer: Prayer is a significant motif in the Farewell Discourses. Jesus models and teaches about the disciples' access to God through prayer, including his own intercessory prayer on their behalf (John 16:23-27, John 17:1-26).

7. Testimony and Witness: The motif of testimony or witness is present throughout the Farewell Discourses. Jesus speaks about the disciples' role as witnesses to his teachings and his identity (John 15:26-27, John 17:20).



THE NATURE OF TRUTH & WITNESS



John 18:28-38

Imagine: *Read the above Scripture slowly (3x's). In the **first reading** notice the challenge or opt-in moment. **After the third reading** note the word(s) that stick(s) out to you.*

Feel: *Pray and express your feelings to God about the words that stuck out to you. This can include your desires, confessions, questions, gratitudes, or any resistance you have.*

Think: *Why do you think the Spirit highlighted those words to you? Where else in Scripture or your life have those words/themes come up? What message might God be conveying to you?*

Be Still: *Sit silently for 5 minutes. Just be in God's presence. Focus your attention on the Presence of God that accompanies the words of the Scripture; that is with you and in you. Be at peace with the Holy Spirit.*

Act: *What one action will you take today in response to this word?*

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When Jesus saw his
mother there, and the
disciple whom he
loved standing nearby,
he said to her,
“Woman, here is your
son,” and to the
disciple, “Here is your
mother.”

John 19:26-27



J E S U S ' P R A Y E R

the prayer of resting in Christ



John 17

*To pray is to descend with the mind into the heart,
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present, all seeing, within you.*

Theophan the Recluse

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sinner.*

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feeling, and interruption in the name of Jesus by
saying it aloud, "Jesus."**

**Let yourself become aware of his Presence and
slowly breath his name. Inhale "Je" and exhale
"sus" Every time you say his name sense after
his presence.**

Pray toward being one with Jesus.

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“Righteous Father,
though the world does
not know you, I know
you, and they know that
you have sent me. I
have made you known to
them, and will continue
to make you known in
order that the love you
have for me may be in
them and that I myself
may be in them.”

John 17:25-26



B E L O V E D

Standing Alongside



John 19:23-27

Imagine: *Read the above Scripture slowly (3x's). In the **first reading** notice the sign of sounds and what hinders people to commit.*

After the third reading note the word(s) that stick(s) out to you.

Feel: *Pray and express your feelings to God about the words that stuck out to you. This can include your desires, confessions, questions, gratitudes, or any resistance you have.*

Think: *Why do you think the Spirit highlighted those words to you? Where else in Scripture or your life have those words/themes come up? What message might God be conveying to you?*

Be Still: *Sit silently for 5 minutes. Just be in God's presence. Focus your attention on the Presence of God that accompanies the words of the Scripture; that is with you and in you. Be at peace with the Holy Spirit.*

Act: *What one action will you take today in response to this word?*

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J E S U S ' P R A Y E R

the prayer of resting in Christ



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Pray toward being one with Jesus.

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The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe

John 19:35

