

JESUS COMING ALONGSIDE YOU

CMBC August 28, 2016

1 John 1:8 – 2:2

- Our first child was born in Germany when we were there with Janz Team. Ruth's German was rather limited, so we were concerned about communication in the delivery room. Husbands weren't allowed in the room during the birth, but Ruth's doctor agreed that I could come in.
- I was sent home when they closed the hospital to visitors in the evening.
- Then late at night I got the call that Ruth was now in labour.
- When I arrived at the hospital the security man would not let me in. He just couldn't understand why I should be there when the practice was that no father got in.
- Just then the doctor arrived and without a word took my arm and walked me in, past the surprised security man.
- The doctor came alongside and got me in. There was no other way.

In an even bigger way, that is what Jesus does for us.

1 John 2:1 And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

- This is a court scene, not a hospital scene.

1. THE ROLE OF AN ADVOCATE

- a. Pleads our case
 - i. **NIV we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.**
 - ii. It is intimidating to stand before the judge, especially when we are guilty – when we know we have sinned.
 - iii. John understood his need
 1. Jesus nickname “Sons of thunder” – Mark 3:17
 2. He was the apostle who emphasized love in his Gospel and these epistles, but...
 3. Wanted the important seat in Jesus kingdom – Mark 10:37
 4. Stop those who weren't part of the disciples – Luke 9:49
 5. Call down fire on friendly Samaritans – Luke 9:54
 6. He knew his need for an Advocate
 - iv. **“if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”**
- b. Comes along side us
 - i. He is not an Advocate or a lawyer who is not sure how this is going to turn out, and is concerned about his own reputation, or concerned about what this might cost him.
 - ii. This Advocate is on your side.
 - iii. That is the meaning of the title “Advocate”, “one who comes along side”.
 - iv. It is used of the Holy Spirit.
 - v. You don't face the judge on your own. He is there with you.
- c. This Advocate takes our place

- i. The “lawyer” takes the crime upon himself and takes the punishment.
 - ii. **2 Corinthians 5:21** For He (God) made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 - iii. He took our sin upon himself, and paid the price
 - iv. **1 Peter 3:18** For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.
- d. Understands our predicament
- i. Sometimes lawyers try to present the crime in a better light.
 - 1. “She didn’t see it as stealing. She just was hungry.”
 - 2. **ILL** Gillian “I didn’t break the sunglasses. I just stepped on them and they broke by themselves.”
 - 3. Or “It was just one of the little sins.”
 - ii. Jesus knows what really happened.
 - 1. He knows the whole truth, what was in the heart
 - 2. He understands the severity of it.
 - 3. He is completely aware of the consequences
 - iii. And this advocate knows that he will face the full weight of punishment for your sin.

And here is something that is crucially important,

- e. This Advocate meets all the requirements of justice
- i. We all know of criminal cases where the whole force of justice never was applied.
 - 1. I am sure that when all has been done in those cases, you are still looking over your shoulder.
 - 2. You are still waiting for the law to come back on you.
 - ii. Here with Jesus, all the requirements of justice has been met.
 - iii. “the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin, every sin.”

2. THE NEED FOR AN ADVOCATE

- a. The reality of sin in our lives
- i. **1 John 1:8** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. **[2:1]** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.
 - ii. Sins of actions.
 - iii. Sins of omission, not doing the things we should have
 - iv. Sins of the mind and heart that no one sees, except God
 - v. There are no small sins. There may be bigger consequences but sin is sin, big or small. We miss when we measure sins that way. Sin is not about being bad but about separation from God. Big sins or small sins do the same.
- b. Our required response
- i. **[2:1]** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.
 - ii. We commit to being obedient
 - iii. We discipline ourselves

- iv. We are open to being taught
- c. God's response to us to our sin
 - i. **1 John 2:1 – 2** *But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. [2] He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*
[He is the one who turns aside God's wrath, taking away our sins]
 - ii. Here is where we often have difficulty.
 - 1. We are told not to sin, but when we do, God completely forgives
 - 2. There are two things that the Bible does NOT teach
 - a. OK! God forgives, so live as you please
 - b. My sins are forgiven when I keep the rules.
 - 3. Notice the key reference to God in this verse. **But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense.**
 - a. “the Father”
 - b. You who are believers, God is still our Father, even though we have sinned
 - 4. And it is Jesus who speaks in our defense
 - a. What is it that Jesus is saying? The next verse gives us the answer: **[2] He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins [Or He is the one who turns aside God's wrath, taking away our sins]**
 - b. No amount of keeping the rules will bring forgiveness of sin.
 - c. Keeping the rules is an act that comes out of willingly entering into a relationship with God.
 - i. A deep and growing longing to love God, to live as He wants me to live.
 - d. There have been many versions of Christianity that are very strict about keeping the rules, but they lack any loving relationship with God.
 - e. Often the early church struggled with that, and the letters to the churches admonished them about this emphasis on rules without the reality of a love relationship with God. The Apostle Paul said that kind of theology led a lot of people away from following Jesus.
 - 5. But doesn't that give us licence to sin?
 - a. If we think that God's grace gives us licence to sin, that is an indication that there is no loving relationship with God.
 - b. You will hear this a lot in John's letter ahead:
2:5 those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.
 - c. Holy living comes out of an earnest loving relationship with God.
 - 6. The Church has been so confused about this, right from its beginning.

- a. The Corinthian church argued over food and special days. It was a divided church in which it was hard to see a passionate love for God.
- b. Here is what you strive for in your life: **Love the Lord your God will all your heart, and love your neighbour as yourself.**
- c. Here is what you look for in other lives long before you look at their rules: **Do they love the Lord with all their heart.**
- d. Here is the foundation we teach about a Godly lifestyle: **Love the Lord your God will all your heart, and love your neighbour as yourself.**
- e. In the letter Jesus wrote to the church at Ephesus he says, **(Rev. 2:2) “[2] I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. [3] You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.**
 The church had been very strict against evil and wickedness, and so they should be. But listen to what was missing.
[4] Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. [5] Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.
 In all their rules, they had lost the love of the Lord and lost their love in caring out the work of the Lord.
- f. John writes: **[2:1] My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.**

3. THE PERSON WHO IS OUR ADVOCATE

- a. Jesus alone can be that Advocate
 - i. Jesus is the one who made the sacrifice on our behalf
 - ii. We can never face the justice of God on our own
 - iii. We can never live holy enough to satisfy the demand of holy justice
 - iv. We were in desperate need for Someone to stand before God on our behalf
 - v. Jesus alone is our Advocate
 - vi. It is because of Him that we can come to the Father
 - vii. **“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me,”** Jesus said.
- b. He is always there as our Advocate
 - i. **Hebrews 10:11** Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. [12] But when this priest (Jesus) had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

- ii. **Romans 8:34** Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Here are 4 concluding challenges for all of us:

1. Don't hide your sin. Be honest and open about it before God. Confess it. It is Jesus who speaks to God in your defense.
2. Work hard at finding victory over your sins. I know it is a struggle and you will fail, But God promises to help you in your struggle. And Jesus comes alongside and speaks to the Father in your defense.
3. The most important thing you can do to find victory over sin is to passionately pursue a deep loving relationship with God. Make the first priority in your life to please Him.
4. Let God be the judge of other people. Let's make our primary role toward them to show them a life that is deeply in love with God and leads them to the same love relationship.