



Don't trust your neighbours.
Don't have confidence
in friends.
Keep your mouth shut
even when a woman
is lying in your arms.
— Micah 7:5

PEACE IN TRIBULATION.

“Who is my mother, and who are my brethren? He that doeth the will of my Father, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.” (Matt. 12:50.)

And yet the hour came when even these were scattered, and he was *left alone*. The persecution became so severe that they all fled. And so it will probably be in the end of this age with the body of Christ. The separation must come closer and closer; friend after friend will depart; and foes will become more numerous and bitter in their opposition, until the reproach will rest so heavily upon the faithful, that all not like-minded will depart and leave them alone. . .

If such is to be the stormy pathway of the saints in this day of harvest separation, how necessary is the counsel of the Prophet. . . —“Trust ye not in a friend; put ye not confidence in a guide, etc.” To trust in and take counsel of former friends, however dear, with reference to our present course of action, is dangerous. Unless they join us in the same narrow way of sacrifice, we must generally keep our thoughts and purposes to ourselves, with a resolute determination to accomplish our Father’s will at any cost; for their very love for us will often cause them to bitterly oppose us. And in the end even that love will sometimes turn to hatred.

We may not put confidence now in former guides however much we had esteemed and revered them—whether they were the ministers of the nominal church, or parents, or husbands, or Christians of considerable advancement, highly esteemed for their work’s sake. None of these must be looked to as guides now; for the tests are now being applied to all.

To whom then shall we look? Must we walk the thorny path-way alone—with foes and dangers all about us? If we should, as individuals, be left entirely alone, so far as human sympathy is concerned, we should be willing; for the disciple is not greater than his Lord, and he was left alone; yet not alone as he said, “because the Father is with me.” . . . The Prophet speaking for this class directs us where to look for help, for comfort and consolation, saying, “Therefore [though all other helps and comforts fail] *I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: My God will hear me.*”

This must be the attitude of the saints.

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