

Have you ever been sort of half-daydreaming through the sermon, and all of a sudden it was time to sing the invitation song. And you wonder, 'What if I am really dreaming and I am the only one who is singing?' Maybe you are on the front row, and you sort of look around to see if there is someone else standing up, too. It is sometimes a very terrible feeling to think that you are doing something all by yourself. Have you ever been singing and all of a sudden your part has a solo and you jump right into it to discover that you are the only one singing? I have had that happen to me. Being alone and yet with a crowd of people is really scary. Just like when I first began to give small devotionals and talks, I shook the most as I realized that I was up in front of everybody, and that almost everybody was listening to me! There is one basic thing that I prayed most earnestly when I began to speak; not that I would have a golden tongue or meaningful gestures, but that God would stand up there right beside me. I would not go up there alone, but only with him. I love the song 'If Jesus goes with me I'll go; anywhere!'"

You know, sometimes in life we are faced with decisions that, if we choose what is right in God's sight, will make us stand out in the crowd. The crowd may laugh at us, but we need to be courageous enough to face them and to stand for what we believe. We need to develop the knowledge that God is with us wherever we go, if we are trying to do what is right. Let me tell you a story that I heard in high school. This was when Mr. Huffman was directing the marching band. During the half-time show one night at a ball game, one trumpet player marched all of the way to the 50-yard line. Everybody else in the band stopped at the 20. Now you can imagine the way that this guy felt, standing by himself at the 50, doing the show, with the rest of the band doing their show thirty yards away. But the fact of the matter is, he was the only one that was right. That brings into my mind the song 'though none go with me, still I will follow.' Well this is what it means. You're out there in full view, and you are right, and you know it. It takes tremendous courage. It takes strength that Jesus himself will give you if you are ready to receive it. There is, I guess, no more courageous scene to me than the person who can stand up in the midst of the crowd that is doing something wrong and shout "NO! That's not right!" I wish that we could all be that way; the way of the later Peter who stood up at Pentecost and preached the truth, and not the way of the earlier Peter who denied Christ three times. Let's follow Jesus all the way! Even if it is just him and us.