

Do you remember the account in Luke 10 of a man who traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves? He was beaten and robbed and left for dead in a ditch on the side of the road. We see in that account in Luke 10 that a priest and a Levite came by that way but passed on the other side. You see friend, they forsook a brother in a time of need. In Matthew 26 when the Lord was in the Garden of Gethsemane, as He was praying and in great agony and tremendous sorrow, the multitude came to take Him away. The disciples had already made an oath stating they would defend the Lord, but somewhere around verse 56 they forsook Him and ran away.

When the apostle Paul was brought to trial he wrote to Timothy later to say in II Timothy 4:16, "At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them." Brethren had forsaken Paul in a time of trouble in his life. We sin against a brother or sister when we forsake them in a time of trouble. Sometimes we make this statement: "I have all the troubles I can handle right now, so I'm not going to help because I already have too much to worry about." Or we allow a person to go down and become discouraged and unfaithful to God. We don't take time to really understand that persons soul is in jeopardy. We forget that because we get way to busy and wrapped up in our own little world. And then after a couple of months we begin to wonder why so and so is not at church. Galatians 6:2. "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Romans 12:5, "so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." Because we are members one of another and because we should bear one another's burdens, let us never forsake a brother or sister in time of trouble.

Hebrews 13:1, "Let brotherly love continue." May this scripture sink into our hearts. May we look forward to being in heaven together one day.

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes