

# Psalms 38:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.

## Analysis

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**My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.** Social isolation compounds physical suffering—lovers and friends (אֶהָב, *ohav rea*, intimate companions) and kinsmen (קָרוֹב, *qarov*, near relatives) all stand aloof (אָמַד נֶגֶד, *amad neged*, position themselves opposite/apart) from his sore (נֶגַע, *nega*, plague/stroke).

The term *nega* can mean plague or divine stroke, suggesting ritual uncleanness that required separation (Leviticus 13:45-46). David's companions aren't merely uncomfortable—they're avoiding contamination. This prefigures Christ's abandonment: 'All the disciples forsook him and fled' (Matthew 26:56). The righteous sufferer experiences isolation as part of bearing sin's curse.

## Historical Context

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Levitical purity laws mandated separation from those with certain skin diseases or discharges. If David's condition was deemed ritually unclean, even family would be required to maintain distance. This social death intensified the suffering—humans are made for community, and isolation was considered nearly as severe as physical death.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. When has facing consequences of sin led to social isolation? How did you respond spiritually?
2. How does others' avoidance of those in disgrace reveal human fear of contamination versus Christ's solidarity with sinners?
3. Who in your community is experiencing 'sores' (public failure, scandal, shame) that causes others to 'stand aloof'—and how might you draw near instead?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶהָב יוֹ	וְרֵעִי	מִן גֹּד	נֶגַע י	עֲמָדוֹ:	וּ קְרוֹבִי
<b>My lovers</b>	<b>and my friends</b>	<b>aloof from</b>	<b>my sore</b>	<b>stand</b>	<b>and my kinsmen</b>
H157	H7453	H5048	H5061	H5975	H7138

  

מִכָּחֵק	עֲמָדוֹ:
<b>afar off</b>	<b>stand</b>
H7350	H5975

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 31:11** (Parallel theme): I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me.

**Luke 23:49** (Parallel theme): And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.

**Psalms 88:18** (Love): Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness.

**Matthew 26:56** (Parallel theme): But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

**John 16:32** (Parallel theme): Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

**Luke 22:54** (Parallel theme): Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

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