

Everybody Needs a Quiet Place

Text: Mark 1:35-39

Introduction: Years ago I spoke on prayer with the idea of "**staying connected.**" Somehow when the word prayer is mentioned it conjures up thoughts of effort, discipline, duty and even a sense of failure. The words "**staying connected**" seems to support that concept. I would rather speak about a recognition of connection, of one that always exists for the believer. Joyce and I have a daughter in TN. Every day I ask, "Has Pam called?" Hardly a day goes by without her afternoon call. It's not about duty or staying connected. It more like I love you. I want to know how you're doing. Believe me she and her mom can easily spend 30 minutes just talking and listening.

The reading this morning in Mark 1:34 records Jesus taking time and finding a place to have a triune communion. ***IF THE GREATEST PERSON EVER TO LIVE ON EARTH FOUND IT A DELIGHT TO HAVE A QUIET PLACE, IT SEEMS IMPERATIVE FOR US LESSOR BEINGS TO ENJOY SUCH A PLACE IN OUR LIVES.***

The more I think of this act of Jesus various images cross my mind. They are pictures of private and personal prayer. I am afraid that the message might be rather simple. I do hope that you will buy into the images or create some of your own so that prayer may be a positive and appealing prospect in your life.

A. PRAYER OFFERS A PRIVATE CHAPEL

It does not require a trip to the temple, the church or a worship service. It is a place of your own choosing. Jesus found a desert place (a wilderness area) where He could be alone. Once when he was talking about prayer he suggested a person go into their closet. It's not so much for us to be alone, but a place to sense His presence. The more alone you are as far as others are concerned the less alone you are as far as He is concerned.

Several years ago I met a pastor by the name of Jim Cook. He shared with me that he enjoyed a very large Pastor's Office at the FBC of Pasadena. It looked like an office of a huge company. On one end there was a massive desk and chairs. In the middle there was a long table with high back chairs for board meetings and then in the back there was a corner area furnished with a nice chair, table and lamp. He said that he reserved that place for him to meet with the Lord every day.

We need to reserve a time and place to say, "I have come just to be with you God." THERE IS A PLACE OF QUIET REST NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD.

B. PRAYER FEELS LIKE A HOT SHOWER.

One of the choice luxuries in life comes after a hard workout, a full day of yard work, an exasperating cleaning of the garage or the repair of a car. It comes at the moment when you stumble into the shower and feel the warm water, and the soapy lather and soon you just feel clean.

How did Jesus feel after his demon buster day? [look at the text.] Sometimes you see something in which you are not an active agent, but you feel dirty just by observing it. I need to get away into the clean presence of the Lord.

I know we teach our children to dial 911 in an emergency, but a more important number for me is 119. I John 1:9 after worship and cleansing the child of God is ready for assignment.

C. PRAYER IS RECEIVING HEAVENLY ASSIGNMENTS.

The image I have comes from movies of soldiers going into the command post. There the general or captain would give them the orders of the day. The crowd wanted to set the agenda for Jesus. But in the quiet time He focused on why he came and where the next step should be taken.

This is where the art of listening comes in. It not so much quietness for me, but quietness so that His voice might be heard.

Tiny promptings and gentle whispers:
A friend that I should call,
A visit I need to make,
A vision that God wants to share,
A gift I need to make,
An attitude that I should have,
A habit I need to break.

We also have a book to help us receive direction, the Holy Scriptures. I believe that the book of Psalms is more a prayer book than a song book In that quiet prayer time worship, cleansing, submission have taken place preparing us to receive power to serve.

D. PRAYER FUELS US WITH POWER.

Jesus saw so many needs. Actually more needs than the day would allow. You and I will find that those we love have more needs than we can handle. They will have needs beyond our capacity. ***People should always pray and not faith.*** Luke 18:1

It may seem like such a small thing we do when we pray. But I believe it has been pointed out that Rev. 8:1-5 shows our prayer as "reverse thunder." Everyone needs a private chapel where worship, cleansing, assignments, and empowerment are available. It is a time in which we can see.

E. PRAYER IS LIKE MAKING DEPOSITS IN A SAFE PLACE.

Joyce is an avid reader especially of the daily newspaper. From those readings she gains insights about being careful. Once she told me, "Don't leave important letters in our sidewalk mailbox especially if there is any money in them." One way to relieve her mind is for me to take the letters into the Post Office Building and place them in the mail shoot. She is also most relieved when we go into the bank and stand at the counter and deposit the money.

God delights in us when we appear to say, "I am here Father to tell you that I trust you implicitly." I believe you love me and I will be sensitive to what you are doing in my life today. I don't want to live my life without leaning on you. This is hard for us to say because our nature and conditioning say, "I can handle everything that life throws at me." I am secure and strong. But in the quiet place we learn to say, "Father I need help."

Conclusion: Please do not assume that I am a super person of prayer. Looking back I see it as a major weakness. But I do believe that it is one of the high privileges that God gives to His children, i.e. the opportunity to come into His presence and say, "My Father in Heaven. I want to spend some quality time with you."

WHAT A PRIVILEGE TO CARRY EVERYTHING TO GOD IN PRAYER.