

Haysville Christian Church (Online Service, April 26, 2020)

Message: **Solitude: Alone Together**, Mark 1:35, Pastor Kurt Henson

In a time of social distancing and isolation the Father is calling us to seek Him in Solitude. Solitude is the furnace of transformation. *“Without solitude we remain victims of our society and continue to be entangled in the illusions of the false self. Jesus himself entered into this furnace.”* Henri Nouwen

- Come away with Me to a lonely place... Mark 6:31
- In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there. Mark 1:35
- But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:6

I. What is Solitude?

- a. Solitude vs Isolation- Loneliness
 - i. Loneliness is inner emptiness. Solitude is inner _____.”
- b. Not a _____, but a state of _____ and heart.
- c. Solitude is the place of _____!

II. The Purpose of Solitude?

- a. Solitude is the place of _____ and _____.
- b. Mark 1:12, Jesus in the wilderness
- c. Solitude exposes our idols!

III. The Rewards of Solitude

- a. Encountering Christ.
- b. Solitude leads to _____.
- c. It is solitude that _____.

IV. Steps to Solitude

- a. **Disconnect** from the _____ and its noise.
- b. **Connect** with the Father, through the Son, in the _____.
- c. **Release**, I Peter 5:7, all your _____ on Him, because He cares for you.
- d. Start Small
- e. Dedicate a _____.

V. Why is this so important?

- a. Matthew 25:1-13, Endurance, Oil for the waiting.
- b. There is only one _____.

Ruminare on these Scriptures

Ps 46:10-11, Cease striving (be still) and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Ps 139:23-24, Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Try me and know my anxious thoughts; 24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Isaiah 26:3, You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! (TLB)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. (KJV)

Habakkuk 2:20, "But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him."

Revelation 8, When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, **there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.** 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

3 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

Reflection Questions:

1. What is the cost to your life, personally and to the people around you, when you refuse to spend some time alone with God and listen to Him?
2. What happens to your relationship with God, with others, and with the opportunities God gives you when you allow stresses and storms of life to overwhelm you? How can the Discipline of Solitude help you?
3. Look at Habakkuk 2:20. How can your silence be glorifying to our Lord? Why are some people uncomfortable with silence?
4. What issue is in your life that would improve with more Solitude and time alone with God?
5. How can you speak and model to others so they might be inclined to accept the authority of Jesus Christ? How does Solitude play out here?

Dear Abba, we long for Your presence. We find great joy in spending time with You.

"Draw me after You and let us run together. The King has brought me into His chambers." Song of Solomon 1:4